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Public schools work on Plan B in transition to full HQT. PAGE 3

NMC's show-cause status lifted

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

» College now on probation

From the most severe sanction of show-cause, the Northern Marianas College was placed yesterday under a less severe status—probation—which means the college's accreditation remains in effect but it is not totally out of the woods yet.

Barbara A. Beno, president of the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, announced the commission's decision in a letter to interim president Lorraine T. Cabrera, who described the decision as "welcome news for the college."

A probation is issued when the commission finds that an institution deviates significantly from the eligibility criteria, standards, or policies, or fails to respond to actions and conditions imposed by the

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US Census: NMI payroll at $131.4 million in 2009

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

A U.S. Census Bureau report released Thursday says that the CNMI reported a total of 1,232 business establishments in 2009, with more than 10,188 employees and a total annual payroll of $131.4 million.

Two years later, the numbers would be much lower considering that the remaining Saipan garment factories closed in early 2009, and the CNMI economy has suffered not only from the garment industry's demise but also from declining tourism arrivals.

This is the first time that the Census Bureau's reporting on county business patterns has been expanded to include economic statistics for the four island areas of the CNMI, Guam, American

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'Honoring those who captured Tinian 67 years ago'

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

From left, retired Marine Lt. Col. Roy Elrod, Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan, Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz, and retired Maj. Rick Spooner unveil yesterday morning on Tinian a monument dedicated to the 2nd Marine Division which, along with the 4th Marine Division, took part in the Battle of Tinian starting on July 24, 1944. Inset shows Spooner, who was with the 2nd Marine Division during the capture of Tinian 67 years ago, delivering his closing remarks.

» Community remembers 'perfect amphibious operation of WWII'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

TINIAN—For retired Marine Major Rick Spooner, 86, coming back to Saipan and Tinian for the first time since 1944 brings back painful memories of World War II, but he's glad to finally make the trip to pay his respects to friends and comrades who lost their lives on the same ground he's standing on now.

"A lot of my friends were killed on Saipan and here on Tinian. And before it's too late for me, I had to come back and pay [my] respect," Spooner told *Saipan Tribune* before unveiling a monument for the 2nd U.S. Marine Division at Tinian's historic North Field yesterday morning.

Spooner was part of the 2nd U.S. Marine Division that, along with the 4th Marine Division, invaded Japanese-held Saipan on June 15, 1944.

He was only 19 years old when he landed on Saipan in 1944.

Spooner is one of the few remaining members of the 2nd Ma-

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OPINION METER
This week's poll:
Do you support a proposal to impose a new $6.50 charge on each airline passenger arriving in the CNMI?
Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

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Local

DPS employee who refused lie detector test 'related' to sisters

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A Department of Public Safety employee who reportedly refused to undergo a lie detector test as part of investigation into the disappearance of sisters Faloma and Maleina Luhk is somehow "related" to the missing girls, *Saipan Tribune* learned from sources yesterday.

This developed as DPS Commissioner Ramon Mafnas stated that obviously they know the Luhk sisters "did not disappear into thin air."

Sources said this DPS personnel is on leave and possibly submitted his resignation.

DPS acting spokesman Jason Tarkong refused to comment when asked about the status of this personnel.

DPS has refused to confirm or deny if this personnel is among those on the investigators' list of persons of interest in the case.

Mafnas said they know that someone took the girls and that they believe the children may have known the individual or individuals involved.

"I don't believe two children ages 9 and 10 would walk away with total stranger without a scream or holler," Mafnas said.

The commissioner said they still don't know if the children really got into a car.

"We don't have any knowledge. We are looking at every angle, any kind of scenario that maybe took place that date," he said.

With respect to statements of witnesses, Mafnas said they don't take the word of anybody at face value.

"We look into it to ensure that what they are telling us is correct. And that's standard investigative process," he said.

The search for the Luhk sisters is now entering its sixth week despite a $50,000 cash reward put up for information on their whereabouts.

Woman in alien smuggling case wants court-paid investigator

A woman indicted on charges of luring Chinese nationals to the CNMI to work in non-existing jobs has asked the federal court to allow her to hire a court-appointed investigator to assist her lawyer in preparation for her jury trial.

Heqian Ma, through court-appointed counsel Michael N. Evangelista, asked the U.S. District for the NMI to authorize the payment of an investigative fee to an investigator.

Evangelista said they need an investigator to assist him in additional investigation to ensure that Ma is afforded the opportunity to mount a complete and proper defense.

"Given that defendant has been ordered by the court to remain detained until trial, the assistance of an investigator is needed to facilitate additional investigation in order to mount a complete and proper defense," he said.

Evangelista said his client needs an investigator to search for tangible or testamentary evidence from all witnesses in the case.

He said an investigator is needed to look into the accusations and allegations made against Ma in the indictment and to examine the U.S. government's evidence.

Evangelista told *Saipan Tribune* that they are poring through the discovery materials provided by the U.S. government, tracking down leads, and verifying the government's allegations.

The more they sift through all these materials, Evangelista said it is becoming more apparent that they need to follow up leads on both Saipan and Tinian and test the government's allegations.

"If you recall, this is the 'tourist gone wild' case for which my client has been sitting in jail for months now while the supposed tourists, who admitted that they lied to a Homeland Security Officer, are still free, and out maybe partying," he said.

The six Chinese nationals—who lied that they were tourists when in fact they were here to work—were convicted of improper entry.

"These two cases are very similar. Why the difference in treatment?" the lawyer pointed out.

According to the indictment, on Dec. 16, 2010, Ma encouraged couple Weifeng Guo and Yujan Li, both Chinese nationals, to come and reside in the CNMI, knowing that their entering would be in violation of law.

Ma allegedly recruited the two in China for non-existent jobs in the CNMI.

Ma pleaded not guilty to the indictment charging her with two counts of alien smuggling, and two counts of fraud in foreign labor contracting. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Teen who allegedly beat up cousin in car's trunk arrested

Tinian police arrested yesterday morning a teenager who allegedly beat up his cousin inside a car's trunk out of jealousy.

Demetrius H. Pettis, 18, was arrested for assault and battery. He was taken to Saipan Superior Court yesterday afternoon for his initial appearance. Bail was set at $1,000 cash.

Detective Shawn Lee SN. Borja stated in his report that last June 10 at 10:13pm, two police officers responded to Huang Shun Supermarket after receiving a call about persons fighting in the area. When the officers arrived, the suspect had already left with some friends.

The officers saw the victim, a 14-year-old boy, sitting in a parked car and crying. The officers noticed bruising and swelling under the boy's right eye.

The suspect's girlfriend told police that she witnessed Pettis repeatedly punching the victim, who was in the car's trunk.

In an interview on the phone by police officer Roland San Nicolas on June 16, the victim stated that he and some friends, including the suspect's girlfriend, had dinner at Monster Pizza on June 10.

After their dinner, the group headed to Huang Shun Supermarket to get drinks. As they were pulling in, the group noticed Pettis' car parked at the store.

The victim's group decided to drive to a poker arcade behind the Huang Shun Supermarket. The victim then hid in the car's trunk because he knew that Pettis would be mad at him or any guy who is in the same car with his girlfriend.

With the victim still in the trunk, they drove back to Huang Shun Supermarket.

The victim later heard Pettis asking the people in the car where he was. No one in the group told the suspect where the victim was.

Pettis, however, forcibly opened the car's trunk and began punching the victim in the face. The boy said he could not remember how the beating ended because he lost consciousness.

Witnesses said the companions of Pettis pulled him away from the victim.

The victim said that Pettis also punched him in January when he saw his girlfriend's number on the victim's cell phone.

Detective Borja stated that Pettis has a history with the Tinian Department of Public Safety of beating up young individuals and drinking alcohol.

Last June 26, the victim's mother, who flew in from Hawaii after learning about the beating, called *Saipan Tribune* and disclosed the beating of his son, saying the Tinian police have yet to arrest the suspect. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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WITH POSSIBLE DEPARTURE OF 102 NON-HQTS

Public schools work on Plan B in transition to full HQT

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

To prepare for the expected departure of as much as 102 non-highly qualified teachers, Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan has ordered all school principals to develop contingency plans to ensure the smooth operation of classes next school year.

She disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* Thursday that these plans are due on July 11 and will be based on each school's projected enrollment and staffing patterns.

The Public School System has over 500 classroom teachers, of which 82 percent are rated highly qualified. That means these teachers have degrees, valid certifications, and have passed two Praxis exams.

Board of Education chair Marylou Ada disclosed that there are still 102 teachers who have yet to pass the Praxis tests but she is confident in their ability to meet this requirement on time.

All public schools will no longer allow non-highly qualified teachers in classrooms after July 31 this year, pursuant to the mandates of the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2011.

Sablan and Ada disclosed that many of the 102 non-HQTs are still awaiting results of the tests administered in June, while others are scheduled to take one last exam this month.

"I look forward to the best and I am very optimistic about this. Teachers are working as hard as we are. We've been working with principals since February [on this HQT issue] and we've been assured that they are working very closely with our human resource office to recruit what is needed for the new school year in the event they are not able to keep one or three of their [non-HQT] teachers," Sablan said.

According to Ada, PSS does not expect a "big shortage" in classroom teachers since many of the 102 non-HQTs are also retiring teachers while others are just waiting for the test results.

Sablan conceded that some schools may experience an increase in their students-to-teacher ratio due to the lack of one or more teachers but assured that this will not adversely impact student learning since many schools have smaller class sizes such as elementary schools with their 20:1 ratio compared to the 25:1 approved by the education board.

"That's a possibility…and there's room for allowing increase in students-to-teacher ratio. But again, it will depend on the contingency plan to be developed by the school principal. We're asking them to be part of the process and see what's best for the interest of the school and our students," added Sablan.

PSS has already spent $2.5 million to help its classroom teachers meet HQT standards since the policy was adopted in 2006.

In school year 2005, PSS only had 81 HQTs, representing just 13 percent of the teacher population. This went up to 56 percent in 2007; 65 percent in 2008; 75 percent in 2009; and 82 percent at present.

PSS has 595 classroom teachers and on average recruits 45-50 new teachers each year to replace those who retire or leave.

NEWS BRIEFS

DPS sets sobriety checkpoints

The Traffic Section of the Department of Public Safety's Police Division will be conducting DUI/sobriety checkpoints this weekend.

■ Today, July 2, 2011, 8pm-9:15pm, Chalan Pale Arnold Highway, Puerto Rico, by the U.S. Army Reserve Center.

■ Sunday, July 3, 2011, 1am-2:15am, Beach Road Chalan Laulau by Dr. Benusto Kaipat's residence.

Each checkpoint will last at least 75 minutes (1 hour and 15 minutes). In addition, traffic officers will be conducting highway criminal interdictions, saturation patrols, aggressive driver interdictions, and laser (speed detection) enforcement. ***(DPS)***

7 Saipan beach sites red-flagged

The Division of Environment Quality has red-flagged the DPW Channel Bridge, Outer Cove Marina, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Samoa Housing Beach, Garapan Fishing Dock, Garapan Beach drainage, and Hopwood School Beach and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

DEQ said that samples collected from these locations had excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. Water samples were taken from 38 locations on Saipan coast every Wednesday. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

Driving school to reopen today

The ISTS-Driver Training Academy will reopen for business on Saturday, July 2. Students already enrolled in the Driving Curriculum will be given priority.

The Classroom Curriculum will recommence on Monday, July 11, 2011, at 8am. Seats are still available. Call 322-2220 or 484-0910 for registration details.

Academy owner Richard Puhalla has been in Manila for the past week undergoing quintuple heart bypass surgery. He is very appreciative of the support and patience expressed by his students during these difficult times. ***(PR)***

US Air Force training on FDM

The U.S. Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on July 5, from 8am to 9pm; July 6-7, from 8am to 8pm; and July 8, from 8am to 9pm.

The public, especially fisherman, commercial pilots and marine tour operators, are advised to stay clear from the area during the dates and times indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. ***(USAF)***

Humanities Council seeking board members

The NMI Council for the Humanities is still accepting applications from individuals interested in serving on its board of directors. Board service entails attending board and committee meetings, evaluating council programs and activities, reviewing community grant applications, developing new council programs and initiatives, raising funds, and recruiting community partners.

Those wishing to be considered for board membership are invited to submit a letter of interest and current resume to council board chair Tracy M. Guerrero on or before 4pm, Monday, July 11, 2011. Letters of interest and resumes may be mailed to the council at P.O. Box 506437 or dropped at the council's office in Springs Plaza, Gualo Rai. Contact the council's executive director, Scott Russell, at 235-4785 for more information on this matter. ***(Humanities Council)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 1st birthday to our an'chum lil' big boy, Izeiah Walter Sambile Deleon Guerrero. We love you and may God bless you with many, many more wonderful birthdays to come! From Mommy, Daddy, and your whole *familia.*

Villagomez gets into nat'l society of scholars

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

An 18-year-old student from Kagman High School was recognized for her superior academic achievement and was accepted to the National Society of High School Scholars.

Keanna Lynn Ada Villagomez graduated from high school last month. She is the daughter of NMASA Sports Hall of Famer Michael and Erlinda Villagomez and will pursue a liberal arts program at Northern Marianas College.

Claes Nobel, chairman and founder of the society, announced Villagomez's recognition this week.

Villagomez described the national recognition as a great honor. "I hope this will motivate me to become more successful in the future."

Villagomez

Villagomez is a consistent honor student since her elementary school. She was among the recipients of the prestigious president's excellence awards and most outstanding student for science during her graduation. Villagomez was also the 2011 class secretary and vice president of her school's National Honor Society.

The NSHSS recognizes top scholars and invites only those students who have achieved academic excellence in their high school. Membership to the organization entitles qualified students to enjoy a variety of benefits including scholarship opportunities, academic competitions, free events, member-only resources, and many others.

NHSS was formed in 2002 and has more than 530,000 society members in over 160 countries. It provides scholarship opportunities for deserving young people.

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Pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In The Matter of the Adoption of: G.R.C. Minor Child By: Richko Rauepi and Joey Camacho Petitioners.	FCD-AD-CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0231 NOTICE OF HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing **July 11, 2011** at **1:30pm** in **Courtroom 217A**, before the Associate Judge Perry B. Inos.

Dated this 30th day of May, 2011.

Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

By: Deputy Clerk of Court

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Coastal Resources Management
Caller Box 10007, Springs Plaza,
Chalan Pale Arnold, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel(670)664-8300 • Fax(670)664-8315
Website: www.crm.gov.mp

NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE CRM AGENCY OFFICIALS

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos through the Coastal Resources Management Office (CRMO) hereby give notice that a CRM Agency Officials Meeting will be held on Thursday, July 07, 2011, at 10:00 A.M. at the CRM Conference Room, Springs Plaza, Middle Road, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
a) Call to Order
b) Roll Call

II. PERMIT APPLICATION

Pre-Application– Marianas Meat Harvesting Company
a. Permit Introduction
b. Discussion by CRM Agencies/CRMO

Permit Amendment - West San Jose Homestead-MPLA CRM Permit No. TMS-2002-X-219(A)
a. Permit Summary
b. Discussion by CRM Agencies/CRMO
c. Permit Status

III. OTHER MATTERS

IV. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/ **RITA C. CHONG - DELACRUZ**
Administrator

PUBLIC NOTICE

Network Maintenance

As part of our ongoing commitment to our customers and system-wide upgrade, IT&E engineers will install new DC Power Systems at our Mt. Tapochau site that will enhance service to our wireless customers. The upgrade will take place early morning Monday, **July 4**, from **1am – 3am**. During the installation and testing process, IT&E customers may experience Network outages. Both of IT&E's wireless networks will be affected. IT&E GSM subscribers will be affected for approximately 30 minutes, as will IT&E's CDMA subscribers. We apologize in advance for any inconvenience experienced during this activity. IT&E appreciates your patience and understanding while we continue to serve the Marianas.

For more information,
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HONORING

From Page 1

rine Division who participated in the July 24, 1944 "perfect amphibious operation of World War II"—the invasion and capture of Tinian.

While a monument for the 4th Marine Division has stood on Tinian for years, "there remained one glairing omission," said Col. Robert D. Loynd, officer-in-charge of the U.S. Marine Corps Activity in Guam and the CNMI.

"For years, a spot has remained vacant adjacent to her sister 4th Marine Division's monument," Loynd said in his keynote address during yesterday's dedication ceremony for the 2nd Marine Division.

Spooner, in an emotional interview before the ceremony, shared his thoughts about his first visit to Tinian and Saipan since the capture of Tinian 67 years ago. He said he was also surprised at himself for the emotional moment.

"You asked the wrong question. Maybe it was the right question. Why didn't I come back [sooner]? I should have said 'I don't know,' but I told you the truth, and it affected me. Thank God I came. I wish that the others could see it," he said.

Spooner said for years, he's been invited by the Military Historical Tours to come back to Saipan and Tinian but it was only this year when he finally said "yes."

He said during the war, he couldn't really see the full beauty of the islands. "It was very difficult to think about the future of the islands. We were trying to stay alive," he said, adding that he still remembers the war "vividly."

His regiment stayed longer on Tinian during the war than the others. He left Tinian on Oct. 26, 1944 and went back to Saipan. Months later, they moved to Okinawa, Japan.

Upon learning of a monument dedication for the 2nd Marine Division, Spooner said he's "deeply honored" and thanked those who made the event a reality.

"The monuments are similar, they look alike. It gives full credit to everyone. None of us who survived felt that we needed or deserved any credit but for those young guys who were with us who didn't make it back, we really do need to honor them in some way and this is a wonderful thing to do," he said.

Without a prepared speech, Spooner delivered the closing remarks at the ceremony.

'Wounded on Saipan'

Retired Marine Lt. Col. Roy Elrod, who was with the 4th Marine Division, participated in the assault on Saipan from June 15, 1944 to July 2, 1944.

That was when he was seriously wounded and had to be evacuated out of Saipan.

"I wasn't able to make the operation here on Tinian because I was taken away at a hospital," he said.

Today, he will find the spot where he was wounded 67 years ago on Saipan, and have his photo taken.

Gordon Marciano of Pacific Development Inc. said the spot could be between Garapan and Mount Tapochao.

"I've always wanted to go back to Saipan. When I found that the Military Historical Tour group was having this tour, I was the first one to sign up for it," he said.

Elrod, who was born and raised in Texas, marked his 92nd birthday on June 25.

After retiring from the Marine Corps in 1969, he decided to stay in Northern Virginia.

'Opening the door'

Col. Robert Loynd, in his keynote address, talked about the heroic actions of the Marines who participated in the Battle of Tinian starting on July 24, 1944.

He said the 2nd and 4th Marine Divisions, with a supporting naval task force, "opened the door" to the Japanese heartland with the capture of the Marianas.

Loynd said not only was the Battle of Tinian considered—at the operational-level of war—to be one of the most brilliantly executed shore-to-shore expeditionary and amphibious operations to date, but the two Marine Divisions directly enabled the United States' eventual strategic success.

This was done by securing the island, clearing out well-entrenched Japanese resistance, setting the conditions for the construction of vital airstrips by the Navy SeaBees and ultimately, allowing the Manhattan Project to reach its successful conclusion just a few hundred yards from the newly-unveiled monument, with the loading and launching of the B-29s *Enola Gay* and *Bockscar*.

These B-29s dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan, hastening the end of World War II.

"Today's Marines go forward into battle carrying the armor of their forebears and the same fighting spirit and élan as those Marines like Maj. Spooner and Lt. Col. Elrod who landed in the Marianas 67 years ago," Loynd said.

'Thanks to Emerson'

Don Farrell, a CNMI historian and who served as master of ceremony, said due to the impetus provided by a former Marine visiting Tinian with the Military History Tours, a monument to the 2nd Marine Division has been built.

That Marine is Michael L. Emerson.

In yesterday's ceremony, Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz welcomed all dignitaries, guests, and community members to Tinian and to the site of the monument.

"But as we stand here today on the historic North Field, it is unfortunate that many Americans do not truly understand the global significance of the heroic acts our veterans performed more than 65 years ago. In fact, it is ironic that as important as Tinian is to world history, many Americans do not even know where Tinian is located or that our island even exists," he said in his remarks.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, who was invited to deliver brief remarks, did not make it to Tinian.

Rear Adm. Paul Bushong, commander of the Joint Region Marianas, said in his remarks that the invasion of Tinian was "textbook perfect, but it was still brutal, demanding fighting."

"Thank you for honoring the special Americans who paid the highest price in demonstrating that freedom is not free. And thank you to those who worked on this monument and helped ensure that the Marines of the 2nd Division will always be remembered," Bushong said.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan, in his remarks, said monuments like the one they dedicated yesterday, "are necessary reminders of what the Marines accomplished and of what we owe to them."

Sablan, Dela Cruz, Spooner, and Elrod unveiled the monument, while Bushong and Loynd laid the wreaths.

Today on Saipan, Spooner will have a book signing for his book at the American Memorial Park's Visitor Center from 12:30pm to 1:30pm.

HAIDEE EUGENIO

Col. Robert Loynd delivers the keynote address at the unveiling of a monument for the 2nd U.S. Marine Division at Tinian's historic North Field yesterday morning.

CENSUS

From Page 1

Samoa, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Puerto Rico statistics have been previously published.

The CNMI ranks fourth among five island areas in terms of annual employee payroll in 2009.

Topping the list is Puerto Rico with more than 45,500 establishments with over 702,000 employees and an annual payroll of $16.2 billion.

The U.S. Virgin Islands came second with 2,845 establishments with total annual payroll of $1 billion.

Guam reported a total of 3,235 establishments with total annual payroll of $1.2 billion, while the CNMI reported 1,232 establishments with total annual payroll of $131.4 million.

American Samoa ranked fifth with 458 establishments with a total annual payroll of $120.2 million.

The Census said county business patterns exclude those who were self-employed, employees of private households, railroad employees, agriculture production workers and most government employees.

Nationwide, businesses with paid employees numbered 7.4 million in 2009, a decline of 168,000 establishments from 2008. This marked the second consecutive year of decline, the U.S. Census Bureau said.

Between 2008 and 2009, U.S. employment dropped 5.3 percent, a decrease of more than 6 million employees, for a total of 114,509,626.

Among the top 50 counties in the United States by number of establishments, the county with the largest decline in average annual payroll per employee was New York with an 11.4 percent decrease. Payroll decreased from $102,000 per employee in 2008 to $90,000 per employee in 2009.

The U.S. Census Bureau report shows that most employers in the CNMI in 2009 were in accommodation and food services, at 3,303; followed by retail trade, 1,529, and administration/support/waste management/remediation services. The rest are divided among 14 other industries or establishment types.

In early 2009, the U.S. Census Bureau released the results of the 2007 Economic Census of the CNMI. That report said CNMI businesses posted sales of only $1.3 billion in 2007, a 28-percent drop from the 2002 level of $1.8 billion due to garment factory closures since 2005, the continuous decrease in tourist arrivals, and a general downturn in the economy.

NMC

From Page 1

commission.

NMC is required to submit a follow-up report by Oct. 15, 2011, explaining how it is addressing the 10 issues cited in the previous show cause-order. Most of the deficiencies were in three areas: institutional autonomy from outside interference, institutional financial management and integrity, and institutional governance and accountability.

Beno said the accredited status of the college continues during the probation period.

Specific concerns

Besides the team recommendations, Beno also cited two specific concerns in her four-page letter to Cabrera: breaches of eligibility requirement 21; and the quality of the delivery systems used to provide education at Tinian and Rota which has previously been questioned by the commission in January 2007. Corrective actions for these two concerns must also be included in the follow-up report.

"The commission noted several breaches of Eligibility Requirement 21. For example, the college failed to comply with the commission directive to maintain the confidentiality of the contents of the show cause and special visit team report until the commission disclosed its decision in the action letter by making the outcome of the report public in an email from the president's office," stated Beno in her letter.

Beno also cited the Board of Regents for continually using the press to raise sensitive college matters, including naming short-listed applicants in the presidential search.

"The college [also] failed to bring to the evaluation team's attention pending legislation that could impact the college autonomy, and to submit its annual report and annual fiscal report in a timely fashion," added Beno.

She stressed that eligibility requirements must be met at all times and failure to comply with ER 21 in itself is sufficient for the commission to impose a sanction, or to deny or revoke accreditation.

Beno disclosed that in an action letter in January 2007, the commission recommended that NMC must take steps to ensure that the delivery system used to provide instruction to Tinian and Rota is completely reliable and works at all times. This has not been addressed and must be included in NMC's follow-up report in October.

'Welcome news'

Interim president Lorraine Cabrera welcomed the lifting of NMC's show-cause status but acknowledged that there's still a lot of work to be done.

"Our focus now shifts to sustaining the accreditation efforts that our dedicated students, staff, and faculty have put forth. We'll all be working closely with incoming president Dr. Sharon Hart to continue our accreditation momentum," she said in a statement yesterday.

Cabrera, along with Board of Regents chair Juan Lizama and accreditation liaison officer Galvin Deleon Guerrero, attended the commission's assembly in June during which NMC's fate was discussed and decided.

Hart will assume the college presidency on Tuesday, July 5.

UNADDRESSED ISSUES

NMC is required to provide adequate evidence to demonstrate that it has addressed the 10 remaining recommendations earlier cited in the show-cause order. These include the following:

- **RECOMMENDATION 1**: The governing body should act autonomously to govern the college free from indirect interference by Commonwealth governor or members of Legislature; and will defend the college from the vagaries of changes in political power.
- **RECOMMENDATION 2**: College should ensure that commission policies are followed at all times and respond to commission requests truthfully and accurately.
- **RECOMMENDATION 3**: Integrate financial planning with institutional planning to ensure that fiscal resources are adequate to support programs.
- **RECOMMENDATION 4**: Ensuring that the financial management system has appropriate control mechanisms and widely disseminates dependable and timely information for sound financial decision-making.
- **RECOMMENDATION 5**: Full time and qualified chief executive officer
- **RECOMMENDATION 6**: Appropriate preparations and experience of the administrative staff and employees
- **RECOMMENDATION 7**: Evidence that planning is broad based on offers opportunities
- **RECOMMENDATION 8**: Ensure that faculty distinguished between personal conviction and professional views and that information is presented fairly and objectively.
- **RECOMMENDATION 10**: Trainings for Board of Regents members.

MVA's 'Happy Children In Paradise' enters 12th year

For the 12th year, the Marianas Visitors Authority is welcoming children to the Northern Mariana Islands this summer with a free gift, a backpack featuring the NMI Saipan-da mascot.

Over 10,000 children are expected to receive the gift as a reminder of their trip to the islands. From July 1 to Sept. 30, 2011, each visiting child under the age of 11 will receive from participating hotels a coupon redeemable for a free, limited edition Saipan-da backpack.

"'Happy Children in Paradise' remains one of our most popular on-island campaigns," said MVA marketing manager Bruce Bateman. "With these backpacks, we put a smile on the children's faces and a tangible reminder of their visit in their hands."

Saipan-da is a panda-rhinoceros, cartoon style mascot that has helped increase awareness of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. The mascot is a household word in Japan, the Northern Marianas' primary market, and was featured at this year's huge Japan Association of Travel Agents trade fair and on many TV shows. The word Saipan-da is a triple play on words in the Japanese language and fosters a positive image.

Coupons will be redeemed at DFS Galleria, where a life-size Saipan-da will greet children and their families and be available for picture taking. ***(PR)***

Tong Myong University students beautify NMC

The Northern Marianas College recently welcomed a group of students from Tong Myong University, who volunteered their time to help beautify the campus alongside NMC students.

The group of 33 students and three professors from the South Korean university arrived on Saipan to participate in various beautification projects around the island. Part of their academic curriculum requires the students to perform community service.

At the college, the group cleaned up the campus grounds, including picking up trash around campus, gardening, and painting various fixtures at NMC.

The group from Tong Myong University also cleaned other places on Saipan including the Korean Memorial Park at Marpi and the area along Beach Road from 13th Fisherman's Memorial to American Memorial Park. In addition to cleaning, the group also visited local senior citizens at the Man'amko Center.

The 36 individuals from Tong Myong University were assisted by the Saipan Mayor's Office and Hotel Riviera president Jang Seung Jin in planning the community service projects around the island. ***(NMC)***

NMC

Visitors from Tong Myong University take time to clean a Northern Marianas College proa statue. The 36 individuals from the South Korean university arrived to help beautify the campus along with NMC students to earn community service hours required by their institution.

Equipment upgrade at Mt. Tapochao site this weekend

As part of its systemwide upgrade, IT&E engineers will install new DC power systems at the Mt. Tapochao site to enhance service to its wireless customers.

The upgrade will take place early morning Monday, July 4, from 1am to 3am. During the installation and testing process, IT&E customers may experience network outages. Both of IT&E's wireless networks will be affected. IT&E GSM subscribers will be affected for approximately 30 minutes, as will IT&E's CDMA subscribers.

"We apologize in advance for any inconvenience experienced during this activity. IT&E appreciates your patience and understanding while we continue to serve the Marianas," the company said in a statement Friday. ***(IT&E)***

Boys learn scouting skills in summer camp

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Some 50 scouts are participating in the 2011 Cub Scout Day Camp and Boy Scout Summer Camp program of the CNMI Boy Scouts of America.

Cal Reyes, island director, said these scouts come from Troop 910 from Tanapag, Troop 911 of the Salvation Army, Troop 912 from San Roque, Troop 913 from Chalan Laulau, Troop 917 from Oleai, and Troop 919 from Kagman.

Reyes said cub scouts of Pack 908 from Koblerville were also expected to participate yesterday.

The camp program, Reyes said, began on Monday and offers various learning activities such as knot tying for new scouts, sing along for cub scouts, wood carving lessons from Tony Piailug, and a presentation from Alvin Pangelinan of the Division of Fish and Wildlife.

Scouts will also learn how to build a marshmallow gun from Training chair Ken Esplin of Troop 913 and learn about archery from Membership chair Mark Burmingham.

Reyes said the program also involves the scouts' participation in two community service projects, which include clearing Wing Beach and putting up the Banaderu Trail signage at Suicide Cliff.

"We're very pleased to have organized this 2011 Cub Scout Day Camp and Boy Scout Summer Camp program," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

According to Reyes, most of their participants are joining the camp for the first time.

"This is the first outdoor experience for most of them," he said. "It provides them with opportunities to have fun outdoor, make new friends, and learn about the ideals of boy scouting."

Jay Britt of Troop 910 has been joining the summer camp for several years now. "I like it because it's fun. It helps you become close to the wild and learn survival skills," said Britt, 16.

Although the camp will culminate today, Reyes said they held the recognition ceremony and award presentation last night, followed by a barbecue with parents, scouts, and all unit leaders.

Scouts participating in the 2011 Cub Scout Day Camp and Boy Scout Summer Camp program of the CNMI Boy Scouts of America are given wood carving lessons by Tony Piailug.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Alvin Pangelinan of the Division of Fish and Wildlife makes a presentation to boy scouts and cub scouts about the importance of preserving marine life.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CRIME OF THE WEEK

Suicide Cliff burglary

Crime Stoppers is seeking the community's assistance for information on a burglary and theft incident that occurred at the Suicide Cliff in Marpi.

On Monday, June 20, 2011, around 2:45pm, a Korean male tourist, 50, parked his car under a flame tree at Suicide Cliff. The victim was with another Korean male. They walked to the cliff side and took photographs.

When they returned, the victim discovered his personal items missing. Items stolen included a large backpack, Korean passport, flashlight, umbrella, car keys, a Korean Bible, and a Galaxy cell phone. Items stolen are valued at an estimated $600-plus.

There were no signs of forced entry and the car may have been left unlocked. The victims drove to the nearest store in San Roque and contacted police.

DPS and Crime Stoppers are seeking help from the public. Contact the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272 should you want to remain anonymous or use its website at www.nmicrimestoppers.com. Crime stoppers pays up to $1,000 for any information leading to an arrest. ***(DPS)***

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

How to depose Gadhafi

Moammar Gadhafi is a fitting target for the arrest warrant issued against him by the International Criminal Court. Whatever one's opinion of the court—and the Los Angeles Times' editorial board has been divided on the subject—the charges lodged against the Libyan strongman and two relatives dramatize the worldwide condemnation of Gadhafi's war against his own people. He is now formally what he has been in fact since the Arab Spring came to Libya: an outlaw.

The grounds for the warrant, according to the court, are that Gadhafi allegedly committed crimes against humanity—specifically murder and persecution. Judges said there was sufficient evidence that he, his son and his brother-in-law ordered the killing and imprisonment of hundreds of civilians in February.

But although the charges against Gadhafi bring moral clarity to the discussion of his conduct, we're sorry the court went through with them. We take this view not because of any particular doubts about Gadhafi's guilt but because the warrants against him and his relatives could complicate efforts to reach a political solution under which he would step down. The International Crisis Group, a nonprofit organization that aims to resolve international conflicts, stated the problem clearly: "To insist that he both leave the country and face trial in the International Criminal Court is virtually to ensure that he will stay in Libya to the bitter end and go down fighting."

A political solution is an option NATO and the United States should keep on the table, offensive as the idea of Gadhafi enjoying a pleasant retirement may be.

In the absence of such a deal, it's not all that unlikely that Gadhafi would end up killed in one of NATO's air raids. That would be too bad, partly because the NATO mission is ostensibly intended to protect civilians, but also because Gadhafi is not Osama bin Laden, and his killing would no doubt lead to widespread criticism. Better to seek a negotiated settlement.

How to deal with dictators guilty of human rights abuses is a familiar dilemma, pitting those who prize justice above all against pragmatists who believe that exile for a despicable leader—even exile in comfort—is preferable to continued oppression and violence. There is no single right answer, but in the case of Libya, a political settlement that ensured the departure of Gadhafi—international outlaw or not—would be justified.

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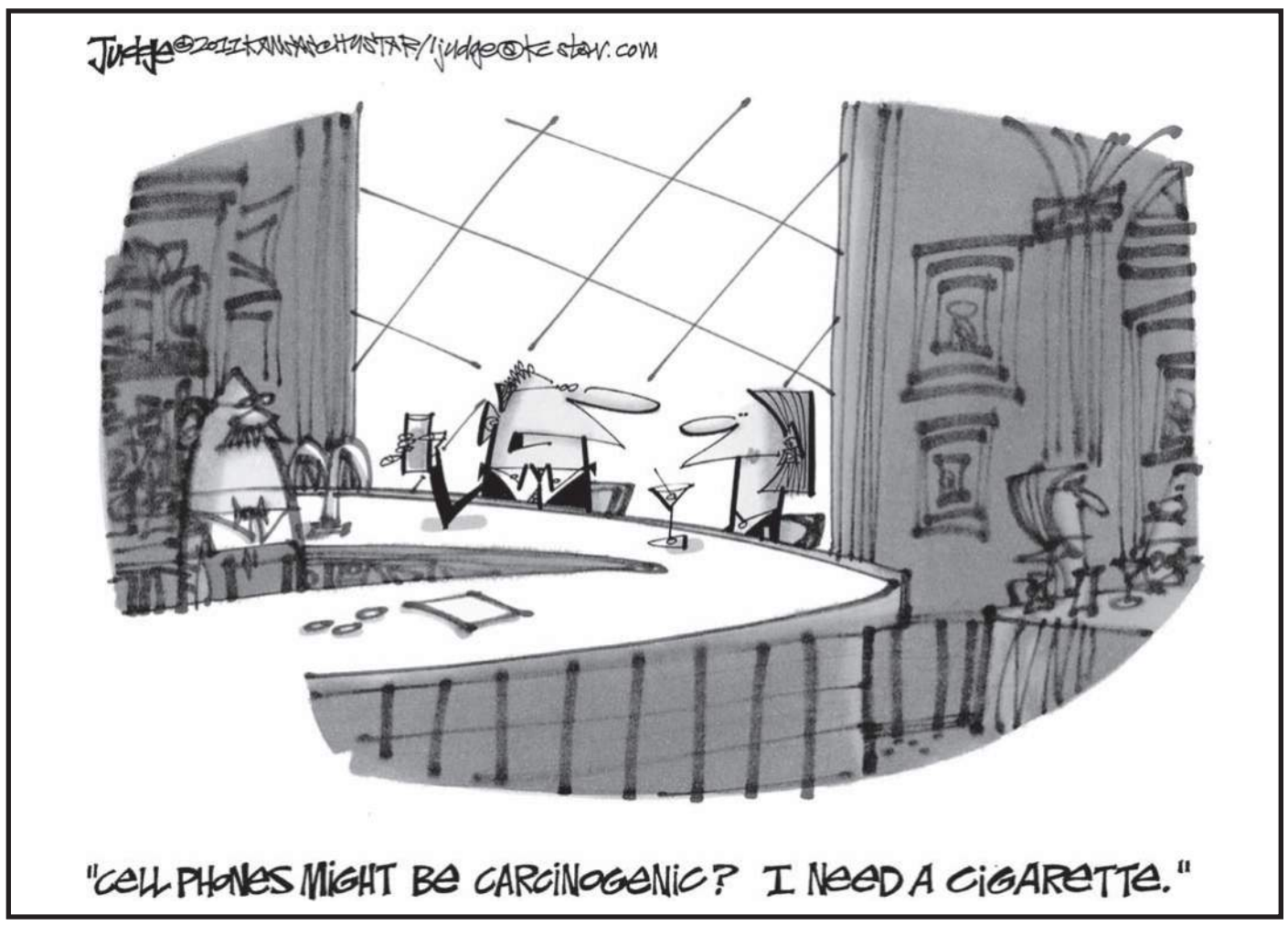


Immigrants

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's *Opinion Section*

It was 1993. He was barely 12 when Jose Antonio Vargas' mother took him to the Manila International Airport, handed him to an "uncle" that he was meeting for the first time, gave him a jacket for the cold, an envelope of spurious travel documents, and bid him farewell to the San Francisco Bay area to live with Lolo and Lola (grannies).

Vargas, now a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and celebrated author, in a June 22 *NY Times*' article this past week published his "confession" in My Life as an undocumented immigrant.

However we spin historical facts, U.S. immigration was designed to regulate non-Caucasian entry from Europe, particularly against the Semitic and Greco-Roman folk, as well as the poor (the Irish, for example). It became its current legal form vis-a-vis the feared Chinese "Yellow Fever" of the 1900s, and later, honed by prejudices against the Koreans, Japanese, and Filipinos recruited to work the sugarcane farms. Now it targets the Latinos from Centro and Sud America, and not surprisingly, ardent Filipinos who felt disenfranchised when the former U.S. Commonwealth limped into independence in the aftermath of WWII devastation.

The boldness of Vargas and the alleged undocumented immigrants in the U.S., 40 percent allegedly of Philippine descent second only to central Americans, points to attempts by many to hang on to Uncle Sam's coat after its fateful imperial adventures in Spain's western islands, the Panama canal, and incursions into the affairs of Indochina, and select states in Central America and the Caribbean (Guatemala and Haiti comes to mind).

We recall our own journey as a documented immigrant. Married to a citizen of German-Anglo-Gaelic descent, I briefly sojourned from the U.S. mainland to Pea Eye in '70 and returned to a third-degree welcome in Seattle. It was deemed unusual for someone married to an American for more than a year to not avail of the immigrant status. I kept a student visa.

I brought my bride to settle in the Philippines two years later in the time for Marcos to change the governance's legal base. Having been in the parliament of the streets in the U.S. during the Civil Rights and anti-Vietnam War era, we took exception to central government muzzling popular dissent, so we found ourselves back in midwest USA.

In a trip to Brownsville, Texas, I prevailed on my colleagues to cross into Matamoros for some tacos and tamales. In a business suit, it took me six hours to traverse 20 meters of the border on our return. I fitted the profile of a Filipino trying to sneak into the country from Mexico.

The final straw came in Honolulu when my family bearing two U.S., one Canadian, and a Philippine passport strolled through INS. I was accused of bringing an unidentified alien (my 2-year-old Canadien) into the country, and was told to appear for a federal hearing in Chicago where my wife and I were headed. Mom and Pop lived in Hawaii so they got the grandkids for the summer.

"You evidently have a very low regard for U.S. federal laws," the Chicago officer intoned when I showed up sans alleged illegal infant, and I do not know what my USCIS record looks like but a few years later in Honolulu, I was detained longer than usual. For eight years, I qualified to be a citizen but didn't avail of the privilege and that earned a close scrutiny of my papers. Serendipitously, the Manila U.S. Peace Corps engaged my training services and revealed that I would get better pay if I carried the coveted blue book. In four weeks, I raised my hand in Guam, a good three years before Reagan granted blanket citizenship to residents of the Northern Marianas Islands.

I do not wish to belabor the streak of racism that accompanied my travail but with erstwhile MHS history teacher Franklin Keiper living in immigration-challenged Arizona recently calling the Portuguese and Spaniards "brown" makes one wonder whether we might question his competency to teach history to our young. Magellan's entourage is too pale-faced to meld with the tanned North African Semites that to call them brown insults the Indo-Malay race! Race is not an inconsiderable factor in immigration cases; so does economic class.

Anyway, our personal journey is a walk in the park compared to Vargas' almost 20 years undercover from INS/USCIS' eyes, but today's question is no longer about national boundaries. A Jolo friend once said that his family traded with cousins in Sandakan for centuries before European contact and the only reason Malaysia, Indonesia, and the Philippines are separate was that the British, Dutch and Spaniards kept them that way.

A Ghanaian student asked in Social Economy class why the world still insists on visas when national economies are evidently no longer functional, are more illusion in spite of separate currencies, and keeping watch of national boundaries a waste of resource since the colonial bounds are artificial anyway. "Who owns the Earth anyway?" she asks. Nkrumah is gone and he is here! Europe's empires are gone, the American one is rapidly disintegrating. Time to redefine the nature of the global village. We'll include enormous defense budgets for consideration, too. But we'll take one step at a time.

France worries about Gypsies, Germany, Turks. The Thais and Khmers volley lead, and Pinoys and wetbacks bedevil border guards. China just extended social security coverage to its green card holders. The world yins and yangs. There's gotta be progress in there somewhere, isn't there?

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

US foreign policy: War fever subsides

By ANDREW J. BACEVICH
Los Angeles Times

Andrew J. Bacevich is professor of history and international relations at Boston University. His most recent book is Washington Rules: America's Path to Permanent War. A longer version of this piece appears at tomdispatch.com.

At periodic intervals, the American body politic has shown a marked susceptibility to messianic fevers. Whenever an especially acute attack occurs, a sort of delirium ensues, manifesting itself in delusions of grandeur and demented behavior.

By the time the condition passes and a semblance of health is restored, recollection of what occurred during the interval of illness tends to be hazy. What happened? How'd we get here? Most Americans prefer not to dwell on the questions. Feeling much better now! Thanks!

Gripped by such a fever in 1898, Americans evinced an irrepressible impulse to liberate oppressed Cubans. By the time they'd returned to their senses, having acquired various parcels of real estate between Puerto Rico and the Philippines, no one could quite explain what had happened or why.

In 1917, the fever suddenly returned. Amid wild ravings about waging a war to end war, Americans lurched off to France. This time the affliction passed quickly, although the course of treatment proved painful: confinement to the charnel house of the Western Front, followed by bitter medicine administered at Versailles.

The 1960s brought another bout (and yet more disappointment). An overwhelming urge to pay any price, bear any burden landed Americans in Vietnam. The fall of Saigon in 1975 seemed, for a brief interval, to inoculate the body politic against any further recurrence. Yet the salutary effects of this "Vietnam syndrome" proved fleeting. By the time the Cold War ended, Americans were running another temperature, their self-regard reaching impressive new heights.

Then came 9/11, and the fever simply soared off the charts. The messiah nation was really pissed and was going to fix things once and for all.

Nearly 10 years have passed since Washington set out to redeem the greater Middle East. The crusades have not gone especially well. In fact, in the pursuit of its mission, the American messiah has pretty much worn itself out.

Today, the post-9/11 fever finally shows signs of abating, though the sickness has by no means passed. Oddly, it lingers most strongly in the Obama White House, where a keenness to express American ideals by dropping bombs persists.

Yet, despite the urges of some in the Obama administration, after nearly a decade of self-destructive flailing about, American recovery has become a distinct possibility. Here's some of the evidence:

In Washington, it's no longer considered a sin to question American omnipotence. Take the case of Robert Gates. The outgoing secretary of Defense certainly restored a modicum of competence and accountability to the Pentagon. But the most enduring Gates legacy is likely to be found in his willingness, however belated, to acknowledge the limits of American power.

No one can charge Gates with being an isolationist or a national security wimp. So when he says anyone proposing another major land war in the Middle East "should have his head examined" — citing the authority of Douglas MacArthur, no less — people take notice. Or more recently there is this. "I've got a military that's exhausted," Gates remarked. "Let's just finish the wars we're in and keep focused on that instead of signing up for other wars of choice." Someone should etch that into outer walls of the Pentagon's E-ring.

Half a dozen years ago, "wars of choice" were all the rage in Washington. No more. Thank you, Mr. Secretary.

Or consider the officer corps. There is no "military mind," but there are plenty of minds in the military, and some numbers of them are rethinking the role of military power.

Consider, for example, "Mr. Y," author of "A National Strategic Narrative," published this spring to considerable acclaim by the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. The actual authors of this report are two military professionals, one a Navy captain, the other a Marine colonel.

What you won't find in this document are jingoist chest-thumping and calls for a bigger military budget. If there's an overarching theme, it's pragmatism. Rather than the United States imposing its will on the world, the authors want more attention paid to investment at home.

The world is too big and complicated for any one nation to call the shots, they insist. The effort to do so is self-defeating. "As Americans," Mr. Y writes, "we needn't seek the world's friendship or proselytize the virtues of our society. Neither do we seek to bully, intimidate, cajole or persuade others to accept our unique values or to share our national objectives. Rather, we will let others draw their own conclusions based upon our actions.... We will pursue our national interests and let others pursue theirs."

And finally, by gum, there is the U.S. Congress. Just when that body appeared to have entered a permanent vegetative state, a flickering of intelligent life has made its reappearance, and Democrats and Republicans alike—albeit for different reasons—are raising serious questions about the nation's propensity for multiple, open-ended wars.

Some members cite concerns for the Constitution and the abuse of executive power. Others worry about the price tag. With Osama bin Laden out of the picture, still others insist that it's time to rethink strategic priorities. No doubt partisan calculation or personal ambition figure alongside matters of principle. After all, they are politicians.

Given what polls indicate is a growing public unhappiness over the Afghanistan war, speaking out against the war these days doesn't exactly require political courage. Still, the possibility of our legislators reasserting a role in deciding whether or not a war actually serves the national interest, rather than simply rubber-stamping appropriations and slinking away, now presents itself. God bless the United States Congress.

Of course, at the first signs of self-restraint, you can always count on the likes of Sen. John McCain or the editorial board of the Wall Street Journal to decry (in McCain's words) an "isolationist-withdrawal-lack-of-knowledge-of-history attitude." In such quarters, fever is a permanent condition, and it's always 104 and rising. Yet it is a measure of how quickly things are changing that McCain himself, once deemed a source of straight talk, now comes across as a mere crank.

In this way, nearly a decade after our most recent descent into madness, does the possibility of recovery finally beckon.

No turning back for Obama on Afghan war

By BEN FELLER
AP White House Correspondent

White House correspondent Ben Feller has covered the Bush and Obama presidencies for The Associated Press. AP Writer Lolita C. Baldor, who covers the Pentagon and counterterrorism issues, contributed to this report.

President Barack Obama is determined to pull the United States out of the war in Afghanistan. There will be no more presidential talk of decisions based on conditions on the ground, no benchmarks to measure, no maybes at all.

Obama deliberately left out any wiggle room in declaring that a methodical withdrawal has begun. His speech to the nation on Wednesday, a turning point in a fight most Americans don't want, abandoned the caveats that commanders in chief often reserve for a war still being fought.

Why? Because Obama wants Kabul and the American electorate to know there will be no turning back. This combat mission will be over by the end of 2014.

After that, the United States will have forces in Afghanistan for counterterrorism missions and advisory support. Just how many is still to be negotiated with the Afghan government and perhaps the next U.S. president, whether that's Obama or not. The White House is looking at a number in the range of 5,000 to 20,000, far fewer than the 100,000 U.S. troops there now.

AP ANALYSIS

Several factors led Obama to settle on a fast pace for withdrawal and an unequivocal tone.

Mainly, he sees a military mission accomplished, without ever using those words. Yet the political context also has changed significantly. A sovereign Afghanistan has tired of the U.S. presence, the financial toll of the war has become entangled with the U.S. debt debate, and people in the U.S. long for an exit.

As U.S. troops start coming home in July, with more than 30,000 pulling out by September 2012, Obama's emphasis has narrowed. Just as he looked homeward when he ended the combat mission in Iraq, Obama is talking less about boosting the Afghan people and more about helping struggling Americans.

"We won't try to make Afghanistan a perfect place," the president said in his speech. "We will not police its streets or patrol its mountains indefinitely. That is the responsibility of the Afghan government."

That, not surprisingly, is what an economy-focused voting public wants to hear.

When President George W. Bush announced the U.S.-led invasion in October 2001 in response to the Sept. 11 attacks, he warned Americans that their patience would be tested "in the months ahead."

Turns out the combat mission is on pace to stretch 13 years and was expanded under Obama, until now.

Obama will go before the voters in November 2012 with more than double the amount of troops in Afghanistan than were there when he took office. Yet he will say that he is the president who accelerated the end of two wars.

Americans chiefly see Afghanistan as the home base of the terrorists who attacked America, and both Bush and Obama were driven to prevent that opportunity again. To regain control of the war, Obama in late 2009 ordered in more than 30,000 extra troops to Afghanistan, but always with an eye toward their withdrawal starting this July.

Overruling his military commanders, Obama decided to bring back all the extra troops by about the middle of next year. He attributed his move to the diminished state of the Taliban, better training of Afghan forces, though their capability remains in doubt, and blows against al-Qaida in neighboring Pakistan.

For Americans consumed with matters at home, all that talk of progress was measured in one moment, when U.S. Navy SEALs killed al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden in Pakistan.

"We pummeled al-Qaida," Obama told donors in New York City on Thursday, using freer language than he had in his White House address a night earlier. "We took out bin Laden."

Obama's military advisers acknowledged they had not wanted to pull troops out nearly so fast. "The president's decisions are more aggressive and incur more risk than I was originally prepared to accept," said Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Some political voices still push for a slower withdrawal and warn that Afghanistan could slip back into a haven for terrorism, but they make up a lonely minority.

This decision is done.

Obama did leave the military leeway on how and from where the troops would be pulled out. But he intentionally left out any mention of reviewing the withdrawal based on conditions on the ground.

Instead he set clear markers: 10,000 of the extra troops out in 2011, the remaining 23,000 or so out by summer of 2012.

It was meant to signal to everyone that the transition to Afghan control is serious.

So is the deadline of turning over control of all Afghan security to Afghanistan by the end of 2014, as agreed to by NATO countries last year. Obama said that leaders of NATO nations would review how to proceed with the withdrawal next May during a summit in Chicago.

"We don't foresee a situation that would affect the fundamental direction here, which is we are moving to a reduced footprint," said Obama deputy national security adviser Ben Rhodes.

The public mood has been headed in the same direction.

As recently as January 2009, about the time that Obama took office, only 26 percent of Americans said they wanted the number of U.S. forces in Afghanistan to be decreased, according to a CBS News poll. That number has soared to 64 percent.

Pessimism about the U.S. economic recovery has taken hold, and Obama knows it.

When Obama unveiled his Afghanistan-Pakistan strategy in March 2009, he warned about the temptation of cutting aid for Afghanistan's civil rebuilding effort during economically hard times in the United States. "Make no mistake," he said. "Our efforts will fail in Afghanistan and Pakistan if we don't invest in their future."

By December 2009 when he announced the surge, Obama's language about all that was much leaner. He admonished Afghan President Hamid Karzai about corruption in his ranks and said of U.S. financial support: "The days of providing a blank check are over."

In his announcement last week, Obama spoke of building America's public works, not Afghanistan's.

"His trajectory is, quite frankly, a sobering embrace of reality," said Christine Fair, a political scientist at Georgetown University's Center for Peace and Security Studies who closely follows Afghanistan and Pakistan.

"He's reconciling his constraints, the limited stomach for this in the United States, the fact that we are broke, and the fact that our partners in Pakistan are not really partners. You have to make trade-offs, and he's trying to make the best trade-offs he can."

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. Southeast winds around 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼78°	▲85° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲85° ▼77°	▲85° ▼77°

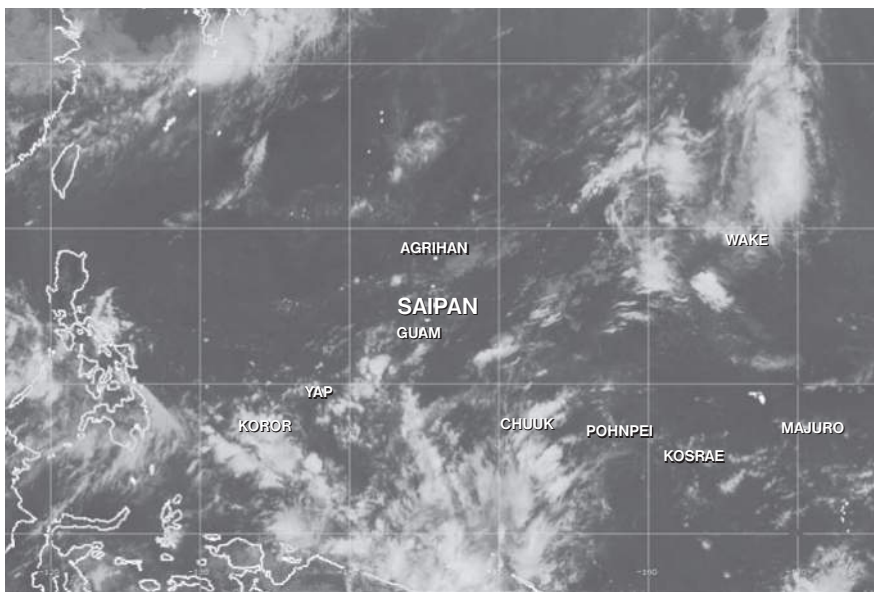
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Rain	▲82	▼77
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼77
Chuuk	Cloudy	▲83	▼76
Pohnpei	Cloudy	▲86	▼74
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼77
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲59	▼51
Beijing	Thundershowers	▲91	▼69
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲89	▼83
Honolulu	Sunny	▲84	▼74
London	Partly Cloudy	▲73	▼55
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲84	▼67
Manila	Thundershowers	▲89	▼77
Melbourne	Showers	▲54	▼47
Miami	Thundershowers	▲87	▼79
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲85	▼71
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼75
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲74	▼52
Pusan	Thundershowers	▲77	▼71
Rome	Sunny	▲83	▼65
Salem	Sunny	▲83	▼56
San Francisco	Sunny	▲73	▼58
Seoul	Thundershowers	▲76	▼69
Tokyo	Thundershowers	▲82	▼74
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲91	▼75

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, JULY 1, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough curves southeastward from 10N130E through a weak circulation centered just east of Koror at 7N138E to end at EQ142E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are located over Koror within 120 miles of a line from 7N132E to 2N138E. A surface trough extends southeastward from 4N143E to end at EQ150E. Winds converging near and north of the trough are generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south of Guam but over Chuuk, or south of a line from 9N143E to 5N148E to 9N154E. An upper-level trough bends northeastward from 15N136E to lows centered east of the CNMI at 18N150E and near Minami Tori Shima at 23N153E to beyond 25N at 160E. Divergent upper-level winds southeast of the trough axis are triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over Wake island but southeast of Minami Tori Shima.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:22 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
8:08 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
3:36 PM	Today	Low Tide:	-0.5 Feet
10:40 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:51 AM	6:51 PM
Sunday	5:51 AM	6:51 PM
Monday	5:51 AM	6:51 PM
Tuesday	5:51 AM	6:52 PM
Wednesday	5:52 AM	6:52 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:23 AM	7:35 PM
Sunday	7:21 AM	8:24 PM
Monday	8:19 AM	9:09 PM
Tuesday	9:16 AM	9:54 PM
Wednesday	10:13 AM	10:37 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 10, 2011

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
5K382	6:00pm	6:50pm	2, 5, 7
C09605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:00am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

MU590	4:30am	7:20am	2, 6
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 4

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:15pm	Daily via NRT
C09313/933	7:55am	8:40pm	3, 6 via GUM
C09603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7 via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	10:10pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN
OZ604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	9:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
5K168	3:25pm	6:35pm	1, 4, 6
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
5K389	1:35pm	2:25pm	1, 4, 6
C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:05pm	12:35am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

MU589	8:50pm	3:30am+1	1, 5
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	4, 7

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
DL172/288	7:45am	12:35am+1	Daily via NRT
C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0892/9596	9:55pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM
PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 4, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:25am+1	3, 6 via GUM
C0934/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
5K169	9:55am	5:00pm	2, 5, 7
OZ722/605	1:25pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0910/9596	10:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

SCHEDULE OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am Chamorro, 9am English, 11am Filipino and 6pm English
Monday-Saturday: 6am Chamorro
Wednesday: 6pm Chamorro
Parish office hours:
Monday-Saturday
8am-12pm, 12-1pm, 1-5pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm (PH Novena 5:45pm)
Friday: 5:30pm praying of Divine Mercy Chaplet; 6pm devotional mass in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.
Saturday: 6am and 6pm (anticipated)
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am 6pm Tagalog mass
Parish office hours: (Fr. Celso G. Magbanua) Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 8-11:30am/ 3-5:30pm, Wednesday and Friday 3-5pm.
Telephone no. 285-0273

Santa Soledad Mission Parish
Monday: 6pm
Tuesday: 6pm
Wednesday: 6pm
Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 6pm (Youth mass/ anticipated Sunday mass)
Sunday: 7am and 9am (Children's mass)
Parish office hours: Wednesday and Friday: 8-10am,
Saturday: 4-6pm
Telephone no. 256-4568

Saint Jude Parish
Monday- Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 7am
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Parish office hours: Monday-Friday 9:30-11:30am, 3:30-5pm
Office is close every Thursday and Saturday
Telephone no. 288-0007

San Antonio Parish
Monday-Friday 6pm
Saturday: 6pm
Sunday: 7am, 9am (Blessing of children)
Parish office hours: Tuesday-Saturday: 8-11:30am, 2-4:45pm
Close on Sunday and Monday

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am Chamorro, 8am English
Monday and Tuesday:6am Chamorro
Wednesday:6pm English
Thursday: 6am Chamorro
Friday: 6am English
Saturday: 6am Chamorro, 6pm Tagalog
Sunday: anticipated mass

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am, 8am, 10am
Monday-Friday: 7pm
Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Monday- Saturday: 6am daily mass
Monday- Sunday: 3pm Divine Mercy Chaplet
Wednesday: 6pm, mass, exposition of the blessed sacrament
Saturday: 6pm, anticipated Sunday mass
Sunday: 7:30-9am English, 6pm Tagalog mass
Office hours: Monday-Wednesday: 9am-12pm, 2-5pm
Thursday: day off
Friday- Saturday: 8am-12pm, 2-5pm
Telephone no. 234-6991

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 7:30am Chamorro, 9am English
Monday: 6pm English
Tuesday: 6pm English
Wednesday: 6pm English- novena mass to our Lady of San Roque oil
Thursday: 6pm English
Friday: 6pm English- Devotion to the sacred heart of Jesus (First Fridays)
Saturday: 6am English- Our Lady's Saturday mass for the intentions of the Men and Women in military service, 6pm English- anticipated mass
Parish office hours: daily except Thursday and Sundays: 4:30-6pm
Telephone no. 322-2404, Fr. Bong's cell: 285-912, Diocesan Finance office: 234-3000 ext.143

San Vicente Parish
Monday-Friday: 6pm,
Saturday: 6pm (First Saturday of every month)
Sunday: 6am anticipated mass, 6pm (Neo Catechumenal community mass), 8pm
Sunday: 6am, 9am, 6pm
Parish office hours: daily 9-11am
Telephone no. 235-8208 or 287-0131

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 8am
Monday: 6pm (1st Mondays cemetery masses at 5:30pm)
Tuesday- Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 6pm-anticipated Sunday mass 8-10pm
Parish office hours: Monday- Friday: 8:30am-12pm

PROTESTANT

Born Again Christian
(Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm
Telephone no. 234-6026/27

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services:
Sunday: Chinese and Filipino 9am, English 6pm
Bible Study: Wednesday and Saturday 8pm
Telephone no. 235-8540

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Morning Service, Sunday, 10:00 am
Evening Service, Sunday, 6:00 pm
Children Sunday School, 10:00am/ 6:00 pm
Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, 7-9 pm
Youth Night of Worship, Friday, 6:30 pm
As Perdido Road
Chalan Piao, Saipan MP 96950
Tel. No. (670) 235-8590
Email: cornerstone@cfemcares.org

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Garapan, Plumeria Road,
Call 285-6081 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 9-11am
Sunday school/ Children's church 9am (nursery available during Sunday service)
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: 6am Tuesday GCA Kagman, Wednesday Navy Hill, Thursday San Antonio
Home Cell Bible Study: 7pm (Through out the week)
Telephone no. 322-5680

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (English)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (Tagalog)
Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church
Chalan Kanoa Drive, Chalan Kanoa
(east of Town Center and Beach Road, Near Mt. Carmel Cathedral)
Worship Service: 9:00am
Children's Sunday School: 9:00am
Choir Practice: 8:00am
Singspiration: 8:30am
Prayer, Care & Share: Wednesday 7:00pm
Pastor: Millie Carroll 322-6158

Immanuel Methodist Church
(Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)
(Korean Congregation)
Sunday worship: 9am, 10:30, 1pm
Wednesday evening service: 8pm
Daily morning prayer: 5am

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
Sunday English Service: 7:30-9am,
Sunday Tagalog Service: 9-11am and 6-8pm,
Wednesday: 7:30-9pm

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9:20am
Sunday Adult: 11am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided)
Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1
for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620

Marianas Bible Fellowship Center
Sunday School: 9-9:30am
Divine Worship: 9:30-11am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ (4th Watch)
Sunday worship 8:30am
Sunday evening 7:00pm
Prayer meeting, every Wednesday 7:30pm
San Jose village, after San Jose Hotel
Telephone: 789-7566

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 10-11am
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 6-7pm
Thursday Bible Study: 7pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church Koblerville
Sunday services:
Sunday school 9:00am
Morning worship 10:00am
Evening service 6:00pm
Wednesday evening bible study 7:00pm

Chinese services
Sunday morning 10:00am
Sunday evening 7:00pm

Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church.
Telephone No: 285-4661/2

Thy Word Ministries Saipan
Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi

Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries
Sunday 5:30am-6:30am
Morning prayer
7am-9am English service
7am-9am Sunday school
10am-12noon English service, Koblerville
Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting
Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service
Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian
Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Formerly God's Victorious Army)
Sunday 8:30am to 10:30am - Worship Service
Monday 7:00 pm - Women's Fellowship
Tuesday nights - Home cellgroup
Wednesday - 7:30pm to 9:00pm Mid Week Service
Friday 7:30pm to 9:00pm Prayer Meeting
Saturday nights - Praise and worship practice
Last Friday of the month - Overnight praying meeting
Pastor Brendon Perez - Tel# 2359246

Editor's Note: Information subject to change without prior notice. All information provided by the respective churches. If you want your church or religious activities included or to report changes and errors, call *Saipan Tribune* at 235-6397 or 235-2440 or email editor@saipantribune.com.

Business

Source: Accuser issues shake Strauss-Kahn case

NEW YORK (AP)—Prosecutors have serious questions about the credibility of a hotel housekeeper who has accused former International Monetary Fund leader Dominique Strauss-Kahn of raping her, and they are taking the extraordinary step of seeking a substantial reduction in his pricey bail, a person familiar with the case said Thursday.

The person, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss matters not yet made public in court, told The Associated Press that prosecutors have raised issues about the accuser's credibility in the case against Strauss-Kahn, but would not elaborate on what those issues were.

A separate law enforcement official who is familiar with the case, but not authorized to speak about it publicly, told the AP that the issue was not necessarily about the rape accusation itself, but about troubling questions surrounding the alleged victim's background that could damage her credibility on the witness stand. The official refused to elaborate.

The New York Police Department, which investigated the case, declined comment. The woman's lawyer did not immediately return a telephone call seeking comment.

Strauss-Kahn, who faces a court hearing Friday, has been under armed guard in a Manhattan townhouse after posting a total of $6 million in cash bail and bond. He denies the allegations.

Prosecutors with the Manhattan district attorney's office had argued against his release in May, citing the violent nature of the alleged offenses and saying his wealth and international connections would make it easy for him to flee.

"The proof against him is substantial. It is continuing to grow every day as the investigation continues," Assistant District Attorney John "Artie" McConnell told the judge. "We have a man who, by his own conduct in this case, has shown a propensity for impulsive criminal conduct."

The New York Times first reported that investigators uncovered major inconsistences in the woman's account of her background, citing two law enforcement officials. One of the officials told the Times that the woman has repeatedly lied since making the initial allegation May 14.

The discoveries include issues stemming from the asylum application of the 32-year-old woman, who is from Guinea, and possible links to criminal activities such as drug dealing and money laundering, one of the officials told the newspaper. The Times reported that senior prosecutors and Strauss-Kahn's lawyers are discussing whether to dismiss the felony charges against him.

Another person familiar with the case, speaking on condition of anonymity for the same reason, said earlier Thursday that Strauss-Kahn may get his pricey bail and house arrest arrangement eased in the case at Friday's court hearing. The person declined to detail what the new bail arrangements might be.

Strauss-Kahn lawyer William W. Taylor would say only that the hearing was to review the bail plan. The district attorney's office declined to comment.

If the case against Strauss-Kahn collapses, it could once again shake up the race for the French presidency. Strauss-Kahn, a prominent Socialist, had been seen as a leading potential contender and challenger to conservative President Nicolas Sarkozy for next year's elections - until the New York hotel incident embarrassed Strauss-Kahn's party and left him in the political wilderness.

Socialist Party chief Martine Aubry announced her own presidential bid this week, after having long been expected to throw her weight behind a Strauss-Kahn candidacy.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Borders agrees to sell itself for $215 million

NEW YORK (AP)—Borders has agreed to sell itself to private investment firm Najafi Cos. for $215 million. Najafi, which owns the Book-of-the-Month Club, will also assume $220 million in debt. The agreement is tentative and what is known as a "stalking horse" bid for a company under bankruptcy protection. The bid will open an auction for the bookseller and its assets, so a higher bid is possible.

China manufacturing slows: omen for weaker growth

SHANGHAI (AP)—China's manufacturers suffered sluggish growth in orders in June as inflation-fighting curbs on credit took a toll on demand, according to a survey released Friday. The China Federation of Logistics and Purchasing said its monthly purchasing managers index fell to 50.9 in June from 52 in May, 52.9 in April and 53.4 in March. The index has remained above 50, the benchmark for expansion, for 26 straight months. The report said the trend likely augurs a further slowdown in growth brought on by inflation-fighting curbs on credit.

Nation

Can I come? Final shuttle crew besieged for favors

HOUSTON (AP)—The four astronauts assigned to NASA's last space shuttle flight can't seem to escape all the fuss and hubbub.

With just eight days until Atlantis blasts off, the astronauts said Thursday they're still getting last-minute requests. Relatives, acquaintances and special-interest groups are all clamoring for launch tickets. And just about everyone wants the astronauts to take something of theirs on the last shuttle ride.

"People are procrastinators, right? You've always wanted to go see a shuttle launch, and all of a sudden, it's the last one," astronaut Sandra Magnus said in an interview with The Associated Press. "But it's really nice to see all the enthusiasm."

At a news conference, commander Christopher Ferguson said there's so much hoopla surrounding this last mission that he can't wait to go into quarantine Friday. Shuttle crews always take up residence at Johnson Space Center in Houston a week before liftoff to avoid germs.

Ferguson and his crew will fly on the Fourth of July to Kennedy Space Center in Florida, where they'll remain in quarantine. Liftoff is set for 11:26 a.m. next Friday for the 12-day delivery mission to the International Space Station.

Ferguson said he'll use the peace of quarantine to gather his thoughts, take some notes and do all the things that got lost in the excitement of the mission.

"Looking forward to a little bit of quiet time," he told reporters.

Even before the hourlong news conference began, photographers crowded the stage where Ferguson and his crewmates—all dressed in dark suits—sat at a long podium. Ferguson pulled out his cellphone and recorded a half-minute of video of the onslaught.

The commander said even though the 30-year shuttle program is ending he's not hoping for any launch delays that would stretch it out.

"Eight days away, it just sounds so final," he said in response to a reporter's question. "We're ready. We're trained."

Co-pilot Douglas Hurley said the astronauts have the easy part, sitting on the rocket and launching.

"It's real tough on your family and friends," he said.

Astronaut Rex Walheim said the crew has been bombarded with requests for NASA passes to see the launch up close from within Kennedy Space Center. Each astronaut got 330 tickets to dole out.

Veterans have put in requests, as well as sick children. Plus there are all the family, friends, co-workers, even casual acquaintances. Walheim said it hasn't been easy, but they did their best to be fair.

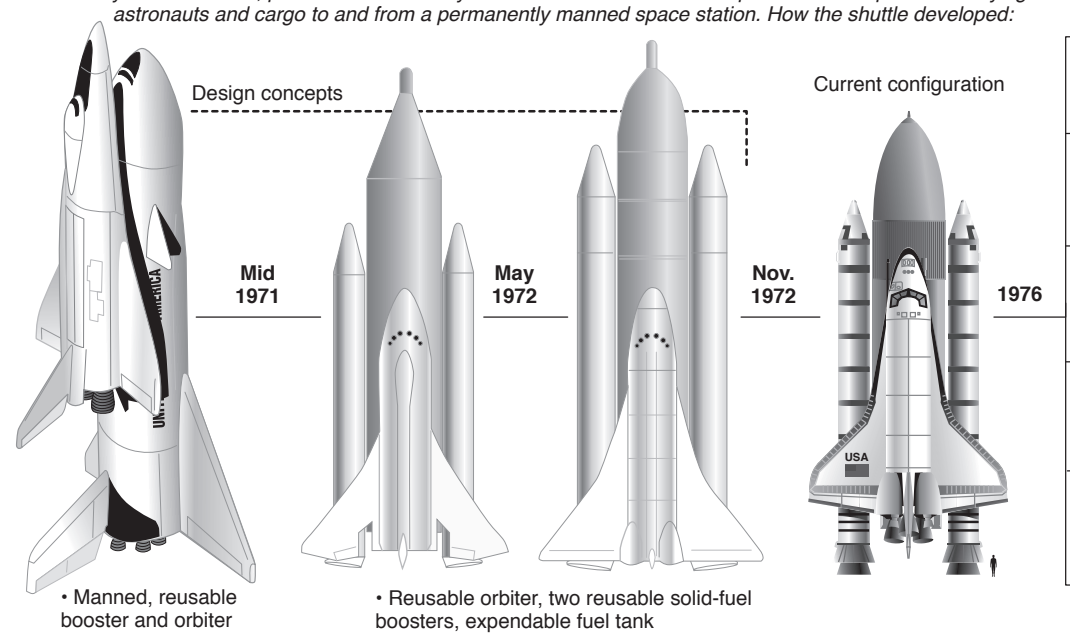
The astronauts also have had to be pickier than usual about what personal souvenirs can take up on this last flight. They can't possibly carry up everything that everyone would like, so they're sticking to the typical handful of medallions, flags, banners, jewelry charms and the like.

Atlantis' journey to the space station, with a full load of food and other supplies, will mark the 135th shuttle flight.

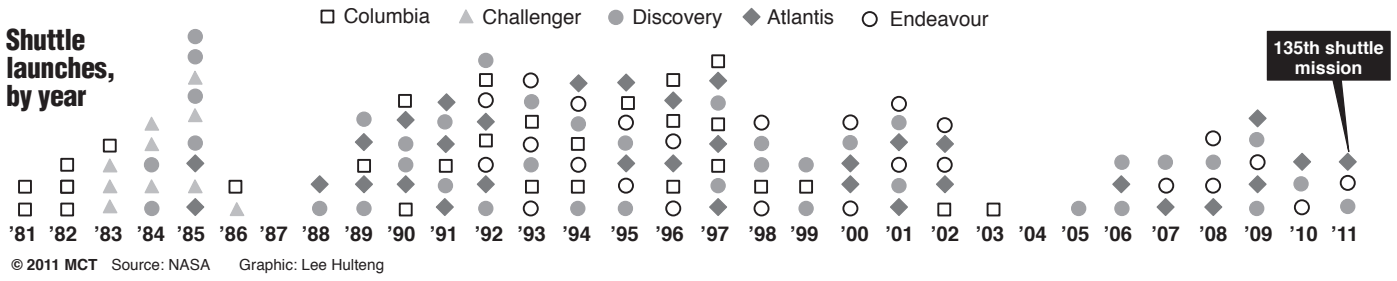
The plan to retire NASA's three surviving shuttles was made seven years ago, a year after the Columbia tragedy. That was so NASA could focus on expeditions to outer space. The goal is to send astronauts to an asteroid or Mars, while private companies take over cargo and astronaut trips to the space station. "It hurts to let the space shuttle go," Ferguson told the AP. "But we understand that in order to take steps farther, that we're going to have to take a break here for a little while."

2011: Space shuttle's last odyssey

By the late 1960s, plans were under way at NASA to build a reusable space shuttle capable of carrying astronauts and cargo to and from a permanently manned space station. How the shuttle developed:



Shuttle	Delivery date
Enterprise	Sept. 1976
Originally named Constitution; prototype used for landing tests but not flown in space	
Columbia	March 1979
First shuttle to fly into Earth orbit, 1981; lost Feb. 1, 2003, during re-entry	
Challenger	July 1982
Named after 1870s British ship HMS Challenger; exploded shorty after launch Jan. 28, 1986	
Discovery	Nov. 1983
Carried Hubble Space Telescope into orbit in 1990; has flown the most shuttle missions	
Atlantis	April 1985
Deployed Arthur Holley Compton Gamma Ray Observatory in 1991	
Endeavour	May 1991
Challenger replacement; was the fifth and final spaceworthy shuttle built by NASA	


Columbia
Challenger
Discovery
Atlantis
Endeavour
Shuttle launches, by year
135th shuttle mission
'81 '82 '83 '84 '85 '86 '87 '88 '89 '90 '91 '92 '93 '94 '95 '96 '97 '98 '99 '00 '01 '02 '03 '04 '05 '06 '07 '08 '09 '10 '11

© 2011 MCT Source: NASA Graphic: Lee Hulteng

Crews battle NM fire, which pushes into canyon

LOS ALAMOS, N.M. (AP)—Firefighters were confident Thursday they had stopped the advance of a wildfire that headed toward the Los Alamos nuclear lab and the nearby town that now sits empty for the second time in 11 years, even as they battled the blaze that crept into a canyon that descends into the town and parts of the lab.

Of 1,000 firefighters on the scene, 200 were battling the blaze in Los Alamos Canyon, which runs past the old Manhattan Project site in town and a 1940s era dump site where workers are near the end of a clean-up project of low-level radioactive waste. The World War II Manhattan Project developed the first atomic bomb, and workers from the era dumped hazardous and radioactive waste in trenches along six acres atop the mesa where the town sits.

"The threat is pretty limited," said Kevin Smith, the Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration site manager for Los Alamos, which over sees the lab. "Most of the materials have been dug up."

Los Alamos Canyon runs through town and a portion of the northern end of the lab, where a weapons research nuclear reactor was located until it was demolished in 2003.

Los Alamos County Fire Chief Doug Tucker said the area in the canyon was burning had been previously been thinned, providing a safe area for firefighters to attack it.

"Am I concerned? Yes. Do I feel threatened? No. But it's fire and it's dangerous," Tucker said.

Tucker noted that conditions in the area are so dry that the fire, which had charred nearly 145 square miles, was burning downed trees that were scorched in the huge Cerro Grande fire in 2000. The fire also burned through moisture-rich aspen trees to push into the canyon.

Meanwhile, residents of Los Alamos, who fled the town earlier in the week under an evacuation order, wouldn't be allowed back home until Sunday at the earliest, Tucker said.

Crack offenders eligible for early release

WASHINGTON (AP)—As many as 12,000 people in federal prison for crack-related crimes can get their sentences reduced as a result of a new law that brought the penalties for the drug more closely in line with those for powdered cocaine, a government commission decided Thursday.

The decision by the U.S. Sentencing Commission applies to approximately 1 in 17 inmates in the federal system.

Congress last year substantially lowered the sentences for crack-related crimes such as possession and trafficking, changing a 1980s law that was criticized as racially discriminatory because it came down extra hard on a drug common in poor, black neighborhoods.

The question before the commission Thursday was whether people already locked up under the old law should benefit retroactively from the changes. The six-member commission unanimously decided in their favor.

"I believe that the commission has no choice but to make this right," said Ketanji Brown Jackson, a vice chairwoman of the commission. "I say justice demands this result."

The NAACP was among the groups praising the commission's action. About 85 percent of the inmates expected to benefit from the decision are black.

The commission's action is final unless Congress decides by the end of October to intervene, and that is considered unlikely.

Prisoners will have to petition a judge for a sentence reduction, and requests will be decided on a case-by-case basis, with the court taking into consideration the defendant's behavior in prison and danger to society. Prosecutors will be allowed to weigh in. The earliest anyone could get out is November.

According to the commission, approximately 12,000 of the roughly 200,000 people in federal prisons will be eligible to have their sentences cut. The average reduction is expected to be about three years. Inmates convicted under state law will not be affected.

ACROSS THE NATION

Prospects for Minn. budget deal dim; shutdown near

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP)—Minnesota marched toward its second government shutdown in six years on Thursday, with a partisan divide over taxes and spending to close a $5 billion deficit becoming only more bitter as a midnight deadline approached and negotiations foundered. Any hope of a last-minute budget deal between Democratic Gov. Mark Dayton and Republican legislative leaders evaporated around 10 p.m., when Dayton appeared to say he and Republicans were still fundamentally divided over how much the state should spend the next two years and that he saw no chance of avoiding a shutdown. "It's significant that this shutdown will begin on the Fourth of July weekend," Dayton said. "On that date we celebrate our independence. It also reminds us there are causes and struggles worth fighting for."

Charge upped for Texas man accused of ditching son

LUBBOCK, Texas (AP)—A father accused of abandoning his 4-year-old son along a rural West Texas highway in the middle of the night was charged Thursday with attempted capital murder, prosecutors said. Ann Reed, 32nd Judicial District Attorney, said she upgraded the charge against Carlos Rico after talking with the Sweetwater police chief. "As the facts of the case developed it became apparent that the more serious charges were appropriate," Reed told The Associated Press.

Was woman's body left in Mass. pool for 2 days?

FALL RIVER, Mass. (AP)—A woman's body might have been left in the cloudy water of a public swimming pool for more than two days, without lifeguards, health inspectors or other swimmers noticing it, officials said Thursday. Investigators were poring over surveillance video and conducting interviews as they tried to figure out what happened to 36-year-old Marie Joseph. The state medical examiner completed an autopsy, but the findings haven't been made public. "The facts appear to indicate that a woman was in the water for a number of days and not noticed by staff, patrons or other inspections that may have taken place," said State Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Richard Sullivan, whose department oversees state-run pools. He said he found the possibility disturbing and "a breakdown systematically somewhere."

Asia

Bangladesh abolishes caretaker govt for elections

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—Bangladesh's Parliament on Thursday rescinded a 15-year-old requirement that general elections be overseen by non-partisan caretaker governments— a move the opposition says could allow incumbents to rig the votes.

The ruling coalition of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina pushed the constitutional amendment through Parliament with a vote of 291-1, well more than the two-thirds majority needed in the 345-member chamber. The opposition's 38 members abstained.

The caretaker system came under fire in 2007 after a military-backed caretaker government stayed beyond its mandated three months and delayed the voting by about two years.

Opposition lawmakers, however, argue the new rules will allow Hasina to steer the result of the next parliamentary polls due in 2014, and have vowed to protest the move by continuing a campaign of general strikes and street protests started this month.

"This will not be good for the future of our democracy," said independent deputy Fazle Azim, the only lawmaker to vote against the amendment.

Hasina has denied the move is aimed at allowing her government to rig the next vote.

"This is a historic moment for democracy," she told the Parliament after the vote. "We can't allow unelected people to oversee national elections."

Opposition leader Khaleda Zia, also a former prime minister, instantly rejected the changes to the charter.

"I am vowing to start a tough fight to protect the (voting) rights of the people," Zia, Hasina's archrival, told a news conference in Dhaka.

Previously, prime ministers transferred power at the end of their terms to a caretaker administration that oversaw new elections.

The provision was introduced in 1996 to prevent vote-stealing by incumbents, but the Supreme Court recently declared the system was at odds with the constitution's main spirit that the state be governed by elected representatives.

The South Asian nation has a history of political unrest. It has witnessed two military coups and 19 failed coup attempts since its independence from Pakistan in 1971.

NATO blames Haqqani for attack on Afghan hotel

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—The U.S.-led coalition on Thursday blamed an al-Qaida affiliated network working jointly with Taliban fighters for a deadly attack on a luxury hotel in Kabul—an assault that raised doubts about the ability of Afghan forces to handle security as foreign troops withdraw.

The coalition also reported that a leader with the Haqqani network suspected of having provided assistance, including weapons, fighters and training, to the gunmen who attacked the Inter-Continental hotel was killed Wednesday night in a precision airstrike. Ismail Jan, the deputy to the senior Haqqani commander inside Afghanistan, and other Haqqani fighters died in the airstrike in Gardez, the provincial capital of Paktia province, the coalition said.

Nine suicide bombers launched an attack on the hotel late Tuesday, triggering an hours-long standoff with Afghan security forces, who were assisted by coalition mentors and NATO helicopters. In all, 20 people were killed, including the nine attackers.

The Pakistan-based Haqqani network, which has ties to both al-Qaida and the Taliban, has emerged as one of the biggest threats to stability in Afghanistan.

Jan, who moved from Pakistan into Afghanistan late last year, used to command 25 to 35 fighters who attacked Afghan and coalition forces along the Afghan-Pakistan border in Khost and Paktia provinces.

Jan's location in Paktia was pinpointed with the help of tips from Afghan government officials, citizens and insurgent informants, the coalition said.

The Kabul hotel assault was one of the biggest and most complex attacks ever orchestrated in the Afghan capital and appeared designed to show that the insurgents are capable of striking even in the center of power at a time when U.S. officials are speaking of progress in the nearly 10-year war.

The attack came on the eve of a two-day conference about plans for Afghan forces to take the lead responsibility for security in seven areas of Afghanistan starting next month. Security is to be shouldered by Afghan security forces across the whole nation by the end of 2014 when international forces are to be assigned to support roles or sent home.

At the end of the conference on Thursday, Ashraf Ghani, chairman of the nation's transition commission, urged Afghans not to fear, but rally around transition. The first phase of transition will start in the provincial capitals of Lashkar Gah in southern Afghanistan, Herat in the west, Mazer-e-Sharif in the north and Mehterlam in the east.

In addition, Afghan police and soldiers will take charge in all of Bamiyan and Panjshir provinces, which have seen little to no fighting, and all of Kabul province except for the restive Surobi district.

"We have a clear goal—that our security forces must assume responsibility and leadership for security in 2014," Ghani told reporters, adding that the goal line was just three years away.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Japan business confidence tumbles after disaster

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's central bank says business confidence at major Japanese manufacturers tumbled as the impact of the earthquake and tsunami became clearer. The Bank of Japan's quarterly "tankan" survey of business sentiment shows that the main index for large manufacturers dropped to minus 9. The figure represents the percentage of companies saying in the last month that business conditions are good minus those saying conditions are unfavorable. Three months ago the index stood at plus 6. Much of that survey was conducted after the March 11 disaster hit.

China opens world's longest sea bridge—26 miles

BEIJING (AP)—China has opened the world's longest cross-sea bridge. The Jiaozhou Bay bridge is 26 miles (42 kilometers) long and links China's eastern port city of Qingdao to the island of Huangdao. State-run CCTV says the 110-foot (35-meter)-wide bridge is the longest of its kind and cost more than 10 billion yuan ($1.5 billion). CCTV says the bridge passed construction appraisals on Monday and the bridge and an undersea tunnel opened to traffic on Thursday. The bridge supported by more than 5,000 pillars was built in four years.

Taiwan unveils upgraded fighter jet

TAICHUNG, Taiwan (AP)—Taiwan has unveiled an upgraded version of its Indigenous Defence Fighter, a modest military jet that went into service 19 years ago. President Ma Ying-jeou gave a thumbs-up Thursday from the cockpit of one of six aircraft already refitted with improved electronics, avionics, and the ability to carry better weapons. The upgrade program involves 71 of the approximately 130 IDFs in Taiwan's air force. It is expected to be completed by the end of 2012 at a cost of $588 million.

World

Syria forces spread through border area; 19 killed

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP)—Syrian army forces spread through a restive mountainous area near the Turkish border on Thursday as the death toll from a two-day military siege rose to 19 people, according to activists and a witness.

The action by Syrian troops in the northwestern area of Jabal al-Zawiya appeared to be aimed at preventing residents from fleeing to Turkey, where more than 10,000 Syrians have already taken shelter in refugee camps, activists say. The refugees have been a source of deep embarrassment to Damascus, one of the most tightly controlled regimes in the Middle East.

"They fear there will be sympathy for the people who are fleeing, and they are frightened that this will cause international pressure to mount on the regime," said Mustafa Osso, a prominent Syrian-based human rights activist.

Only five Syrians made it across the border Thursday, the lowest number in days, said Turkish officials. Over the past week, more than 10,000 Syrians rushed across, fleeing their army's violent crackdown against demonstrators.

Syrian activists say more than 1,400 people have been killed as President Bashar Assad tries to crush three months of nationwide protests. The regime disputes that death toll and says "armed thugs" and foreign conspirators are behind the unrest.

In Thursday's operations, Syrian forces were consolidating their hold on the Jabal al-Zawiya after two days of heavy shelling in the area, particularly in the village of Rameh, said Osso. That assessment was repeated by Lebanon-based activist Omar Idibi and an eyewitness who spoke on condition of anonymity, fearing reprisals.

AP

In this photo taken on a government-organized tour, Syrian soldiers patrol the area along the Syrian-Turkish border in the village of Khirbet al-Jouz in the northern province of Idlib, Wednesday, June 29, 2011.

Chavez says surgery removed tumor in Cuba

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez told his country Thursday night he underwent surgery in Cuba to remove a cancerous tumor but assured them he is doing well, seeking to cool growing questions about his health and ability to govern.

Chavez said in a televised talk that the operation took out a growth in which there were "cancerous cells." He said the surgery was done after an initial operation nearly three weeks ago for the removal of a pelvic abscess.

He called his situation "this new battle that life has placed before us."

Clearly thinner and paler after his surgeries, Chavez read from a prepared speech with a sad and serious expression. He stood at a podium, flanked by the Venezuelan flag and a portrait of 19th century independence hero Simon Bolivar, the namesake of his Bolivarian Revolution political movement.

It was unclear what type of cancer is involved or what Chavez's treatment will be. He said it was a mistake not have taken better care of his health through medical checkups.

"What a fundamental error," he said.

Chavez did not say how much longer he expected to remain in Cuba recovering, and there was no information on when or where his message was recorded.

His appearance came after government efforts, including Tuesday's release of photos and video showing Chavez with Fidel Castro, had failed to quell growing speculation among Venezuelans about his health.

Citing Chavez's health, the government announced Wednesday that it was canceling a two-day summit of Latin American leaders that Chavez would have hosted next week on the 200th anniversary of Venezuela's declaration of independence from Spain.

WORLD BRIEFS

Greece clears final hurdle to get bailout funds

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—Greece has faced down street violence and strikes for the sake of financial aid it was promised and needs to avoid bankruptcy. Now its fellow European countries will be expected to come up with a second rescue package to convince investors that the 17-nation euro will survive the debt crisis. A new austerity package that lawmakers cleared in Athens is required to get more rescue loans but will force deep changes on all parts of society. Minimum wages will be taxed more and key assets like water, gas and oil companies will be sold, possibly to foreigners. Having done what it was asked, Greece will now look to its bailout creditors to hold up their side of the bargain.

Mexico troops detain hit man linked to mass graves

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Soldiers have detained an alleged hit man who is accused of kidnapping bus passengers, killing them and burying them in mass graves in northern Mexico, authorities said Thursday. Abraham Barrios Caporal, 26, was captured in the Gulf coast state of Veracruz and has acknowledged working for the Zetas drug cartel, Mexico's Defense Department said in a statement. Barrios Caporal is suspected of taking part in the killings of bus passengers and their burial in clandestine graves at a ranch in the town of San Fernando in Tamaulipas state, the department said.

Hundreds of thousands strike over UK pension cuts

LONDON (AP)—Hundreds of thousands of British teachers and public sector workers swapped classrooms and offices for picket lines Thursday in what unions hope will be the first salvo in a summer of discontent against the Conservative-led government's austerity plans. Airport operators had warned there could be long lines at immigration entry points because of walkouts by passport officers, but most of Britain's airports, including London's Heathrow and Manchester, said it was business as usual.

Maharlika
PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS
Saturday, July 2, 2011

UFO scraps float for LibDay parade

» But assures participation in parade itself

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The worsening economic decline has prompted the United Filipino Organization not to join the float competition of the 2011 Liberation Day Parade.

But president Bong Malasarte assured that officers and members of the umbrella organization of some 30 Filipino groups on island will still take part in the actual parade on Monday morning.

"The officers voted to scrap the plan to participate in the float competition for lack of budget," he explained. "It's hard to solicit donations these days because everybody is affected by the economic situation."

Malasarte said UFO officers will have a meeting to finalize the group's logistics for the Fourth of July parade.

"Even though we won't be joining the float contest, we will still participate in the parade," he told *Saipan Tribune*. "We want to express our heartfelt support for this island community which a lot of Filipinos have considered 'home' for many years."

Malasarte encouraged all member organizations to be well-represented during Monday's festivities, arguably the largest community event on island.

"On behalf of our organization, we want to send our Happy Liberation Day greetings to the people of the CNMI. The United Filipino Organization joins you in commemorating this significant occasion," added Malasarte.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Officers and members of the Saipan Lions Clubs donate 65 prescription reading and sun glasses to the congregates at the Aging Center on Wednesday.

Lions Club donates 65 eyeglasses to *man'amko*

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Fil-Am Lions Club, together with the Saipan Marianas and Saipan Unity Lions Clubs, donated 65 brand new prescription reading and sun glasses to the congregates at the Aging Center.

Officers of the three Lions Clubs presented the donation to the Saipan Seniors Advisory Council members on Wednesday.

Saipan Marianas Lions Club president Paul Madriaga said the donation is part of the Lions Clubs' community service projects to provide assistance to individuals who are visually impaired, particularly the elderly and the children.

Lions Club International is the world's largest service club organization with more than 1.3 million members around the world.

"Lions are known as the ambassadors of the blind in the United States," he told *Saipan Tribune*. "Donating glasses is among our priorities to help the community."

Saipan Fil-Am Lions Club president Mario Mayuga disclosed that they plan to make this kind of donation regularly. "We believe that these prescription glasses will be a big help for our *man'amko*," he added.

Acting Aging director Walter Manglona expressed his appreciation to the Lions Clubs for their donation. "We want to thank them for donating all these glasses. We are always thankful to all organizations [that] help the *man'amko*," he said.

Aside from donating prescription glasses to various groups, Mayuga said Lions Clubs also provide assistance to those with vision problems through its participation in community events such as health fairs.

Last year, six Lions Clubs collaborated to host a successful health fair.

"If you are interested to serve the community, join the Lions and feel the reward of serving others," said Madriaga.

For information, contact Mario Mayuga at 285-1021; Jess Delos Santos at 789-8765; Paul Madriaga at 287-4501; Olive Yana at 285-7893; Boyet Escober at 286-4444; or Ladyvir Canape at 483-2118.

ANNE 'MIRANDA KERR' ARAFO

Living the gay pageant dream

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Having joined and won several gay pageants in the Philippines, anyone would suppose that hairdresser Anne Arafol will do just the same when she arrived on Saipan in 2005.

"I've come a long way in that area," Anne said in Tagalog during an interview at a popular restaurant next to her humble abode. "I have several gay beauty contests under my belt, including the 'Five Prettiest' in 2002," she added.

Despite being blessed with an attractive face, flawless skin, and a physique more eye-catching than most women, Anne did not join gay pageants on island up until last month.

"I had a boyfriend for four years who didn't want me to join these pageants," Anne revealed.

The 27-year-old Anne won second runner-up in the first Queen Marianas Gay Pageant, the very first contest she joined on island, held at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Hibiscus Hall on June 25.

Organized by A Ge'la & Friends Production Inc., the pageant aimed to raise funds for Operation Home Front in support of the uniformed men and women from the CNMI.

"The Queen Marianas Gay Pageant was the culmination of three months of intense, frenzied, and stressful rehearsals and activities," Anne told *Saipan Tribune*.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Anne Arafol, aka Miranda Kerr, holds her bouquet and trophy after winning second place in the first Queen Marianas Gay Pageant last June 25.

Still, Anne deemed the actual competition—strutting the runway, showing off her costumes, and answering the interview—"a walk in the park."

Despite not capturing the coveted crown, Anne still feels very proud and happy of what she achieved.

"This is the first Marianas pageant I joined and I placed second," said Anne who hails from Tagaig. "I am a Filipino who won in a gay pageant on Saipan. For me, it's a big accomplishment."

Coming out story

Joining gay pageants, however, wasn't Anne's initial interest when she was growing up.

"I used to play basketball a lot when I was in elementary," said Anne. "All that changed when I was in high school. I was in the company of a lot of gay classmates then I changed my sport into volleyball."

It was then that Anne eventually admitted that she was gay.

Fortunately for her, her coming out had the full support of her four siblings, her mother and father, who was working in Saudi Arabia at that time.

"My father's only concern was that I finish my studies," added Anne, who received her salon training from the *Isang Gunting, Isang Suklay* livelihood training program established by renowned Filipino hairdresser, businessman, and philanthropist Ricky Reyes.

Being 'Anne'

While she was accepted wholeheartedly by her own family, Anne disclosed that she was subjected to a lot of teasing after coming out of the closet.

"I took it as a challenge to look better," said Anne. "In my observation and opinion, there is less teasing when gay men look more feminine."

That's when Anne embraced her femininity, avoiding manual labor and taking hormone pills to develop a more feminine look.

When deciding on her female name, Anne revealed that it was an older gay friend who gave her the idea.

"That friend of mine uses the name Anne and she was really beautiful. I thought the name would also fit me," she said.

For her screen name, Anne said she settled on Miranda Kerr, the Victoria's Secret model whom she finds gorgeous.

Anne shared that she wants to get breast implants, which she prefers to a sex change operation—for now.

"I would like to go home and get a boob job to look sexier," she said. "But it's an expensive operation so I need to save. Hopefully I'll save enough now that I'm done providing financial support for my youngest brother's schooling."

Important lessons

Anne, who dreams of becoming a celebrated makeup artist, said it is essential that gays have respect for themselves. She learned this important lesson early on.

"It's not just about looks. If you respect yourself, others will also respect you. Be presentable and match it with character and personality, which are equally important," she said.

Anne also found herself learning more of life's lessons when she joined the Queen Marianas Gay Pageant.

"I learned to focus on the positive side of things, to be patient in achieving what you want, and be happy with new found friends," she said.

Of all the candidates, Anne said she became close to Prosti La'hore, whom she described as down to earth and fun to be with.

Anne thanked her family and friends for all their support and assistance as she strives to live the gay pageant dream. "Living my dream wouldn't have been fun and simple if it weren't for all of you."

Philippine president to visit China amid sea rift

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—President Benigno Aquino III plans to visit China in coming weeks but the friendly gesture doesn't mean the Philippines is backing down from its assertions Chinese forces intruded in its waters, an official said.

The Philippines alleges Chinese forces intruded at least nine times into Manila-claimed areas in the Spratly Islands since February, allegations that sparked an exchange of diplomatic protests and verbal jabs. Aquino has strongly criticized China, saying two weeks ago that his country would not be bullied by China in the disputed region.

The presidential trip will likely take place in late August or early September, Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario said Thursday.

Del Rosario will visit China ahead of Aquino from July 7 to 9 at the invitation of his Chinese counterpart, Yang Jiechi, and was expected to take up the territorial disputes, Department of Foreign Affairs spokesman Ed Malaya said.

The Spratlys, a chain of barren, largely uninhabited islands, reefs and banks in the South China Sea are claimed wholly by China, Taiwan and Vietnam and partly by the Philippines, Malaysia and Brunei. The islands are believed to be atop vast oil and gas deposits.

Chinese Ambassador Liu Jianchao has denied his government committed any intrusion but acknowledged that Chinese vessels were exercising Beijing's sovereign rights in one incident at the Reed Bank near the Spratlys. Philippine officials complained the Chinese vessels harrassed a Philippine oil exploration ship into leaving the Reed Bank in March.

Just before he traveled last week to Washington, del Rosario said he was told that the Philippine military was verifying another foreign intrusion into a Manila-claimed Spratlys area.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton gave strong assurances that the U.S. is committed to the defense of the Philippines and would provide affordable weaponry amid mounting tensions in the Spratlys, del Rosario said.

Del Rosario said he separately gave U.S. defense officials a list of equipment the Philippines needs to improve its capability to monitor foreign intrusions in its territorial waters near the Spratlys.

Clinton assured del Rosario that the U.S. would honor its 1951 Mutual Defense Treaty with the Philippines that calls on each country to help defend the other against an external attack by an aggressor in their territories or in the Pacific region, he said.

Del Rosario said he told U.S. officials that if the Philippines receives defense equipment, "we become a stronger ally for you."

China says it has sovereign rights over the South China Sea. It has also criticized the U.S. for its involvement, saying disputes over sea claims should be handled by the parties directly involved.

Philippines to query Saudis on maids 'ban'

MANILA, Philippines (AFP)—The Philippines is to ask for clarification from Saudi Arabia after it announced it would stop granting work permits for Filipino domestic staff, President Benigno Aquino's spokesman said Thursday.

Philippines officials will also look for other markets for workers in the event that the freeze, announced in Riyadh on Wednesday, is put into full effect, Aquino spokesman Edwin Lacierda told a news conference.

Saudi authorities announced the new policy, which also affects maids from Indonesia, after failing to agree on hiring conditions imposed by the Asian countries.

Labor Secretary Rosalinda Baldoz "is sending a labor attaché to Saudi Arabia to verify these things," Lacierda said.

Some 1.3 million Filipinos work in Saudi Arabia, a key market for the nine million-strong overseas-based Filipino workforce.

There had been rising concern in Manila that the dispute could impact on the economy of the Philippines, where a fifth of the workforce is jobless or looking for more work.

"There are other countries that would be ready to absorb those that cannot be accommodated by Saudi Arabia, so the Secretary of Labor already anticipated that," Lacierda said.

However he declined to provide details, saying Baldoz was set to issue a formal statement later Thursday.

The Aquino government had its demand for higher pay and greater protection for its women workers turned down by Saudi Arabia in May.

Rights groups say millions of mostly Asian domestic workers are regularly exposed to physical and financial abuse in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states due to poor or non-existent labor laws.

Fidel Ramos daughter Jo dies of lung cancer

By CYNTHIA D. BALANA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

In grief, former President Fidel V. Ramos has this message to those mourning his daughter's death: Don't smoke.

"This is her advice to all: Smoking is bad for you," Ramos, ironically a cigar-chomping retired general, told reporters during the wake of his second child in La Funeraria Paz at Manila Memorial Park in Parañaque City.

Josephine "Jo" Martinez Ramos succumbed to lung cancer on Monday morning at The Medical City hospital in Pasig City. She was 54.

The second of Ramos' five daughters, Jo was remembered for her accomplishments in music and sports, mainly as a vocalist-musician and a bemedalled water skier.

"[Former first lady Amelita] Ramos stopped smoking cold turkey seven years ago, after 25 years of smoking. Me, I stopped 25 years ago. She (Jo) did not stop," Ramos said.

"Paalala (remember), smoking is bad for the health because Jo was a victim of a very vicious lung cancer," he stressed.

Kept secret

Ramos said he and his wife only learned about Jo's condition five weeks ago because their daughter kept it from them after learning she had Stage 4 cancer in November last year. Jo started smoking 25 years ago, he said.

"Before that, she had been attending our Sunday dinners and the medication I saw was not for lung cancer," Ramos recalled.

Even in grief, the elder statesman tried to make light of his own tobacco habit.

"This is made in the Philippines," showing his day's cigar to reporters. "I just keep it in my pocket since it is never lit."

"Up north where I come from, we don't just consider this as herbal medicine but also a kind of amulet (anting-anting). You can also use it to rub your headaches away. You must have faith in the healing process," Ramos said in Filipino.

JESS YUSON

Former President Ramos holds a portrait of his daughter Jo at Funeraria Paz in Sucat, Parañaque City, on Monday.

Revolutionary pledge

The former President said he had never smoked since leading the 1986 Edsa People Power Revolution. Back then, he said, he promised before a fellow general, Jose Almonte, that he would quit smoking should the rebellion succeed.

"I said it was a fight to the death—patay kung patay—so we might as well have a smoke. But I also said I would quit and go cold turkey if we win. Same with Mrs. Ramos. So we quit," he said.

Ramos described Jo as a "very caring, sharing and daring" person who was also "modest" in her achievements.

"Mana sa nanay (She got it from her mother)," he proudly said.

Jo was born on Jan. 18, 1957, at Mary Johnston Hospital in Tondo. A single parent, Jo is survived by her 17-year-old son Sergio, a high school senior who is studying music, drama and dance.

Her interment is set on July 1 at noon.

Grave loss

President Aquino, a known smoker, was in Cebu when he learned of Jo Ramos' passing. He extended his condolences to the former President and his wife Ming.

"The loss of any loved one is grave, indeed. The demise of a child is particularly painful for parents. The President assures former President and Mrs. Ramos that he will keep their entire family in his thoughts and prayers at this time of deep loss," Malacañang said in a statement.

The Palace cited Jo Ramos' accomplishments in music as "testimony to the musical passion she shared with her mother" and also her making it to a national team that "gained distinction for the country in the Southeast Asian Games in the 1970s." ***With a report from Christine O. Avendaño***

PH smashes haul of pirated goods

AP

An Armored Personnel Carrier of the Philippine National Police runs over piles of pirated DVDs during ceremonial destruction of counterfeit goods seized in raids recently at parade grounds of the police headquarters at suburban Quezon city, northeast of Manila, Thursday June 30, 2011.

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Police slashed fake Louis Vuitton bags and drove armored vehicles over Oakley sunglasses and pirated DVDs Thursday to mark World Anti-Counterfeit Day—a first step in destroying a five-month haul of counterfeit goods.

The symbolic destruction at police headquarters in Manila involved a portion of the items seized from January through May and the rest will be destroyed later, Intellectual Property Office Philippines head Ricardo Blancaflor said.

The entire haul would be worth $39.4 million if the items were authentic, he said. The street value of such fakes is far less.

"This is only the tip of the iceberg and we intend to do this regularly," Blancaflor said.

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development estimated that international trade in counterfeit and pirated goods in 2007 may have amounted to as much as $250 billion, or around 2 percent of global merchandise trade.

The Philippines is on a U.S. list of intellectual property rights violators. A similar amount of faked goods were destroyed in the Philippines in February.

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President Aquino: Filipinos are caring again

» 'Hope for better life replaces apathy'

By CHRISTINE O. AVENDAÑO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Marking his first year in office, President Benigno Aquino III said that his "greatest achievement" so far was the transformation in people's attitude from apathy to that of caring and active citizens.

"Before, there was resignation, dejection and apathy," the President told reporters.

"If you remember at the time, you were writing about the people's apathy and numbness, as if they did not expect anything from their government. They were blasé to scandals that were being unearthed," he said.

"Now, more people are expectant that their lives are changing for the better," Aquino said.

He said growing demands for change from the people were a good thing.

Aquino won the presidency pledging to crush corruption and reduce poverty. But he has seen his public approval ratings drop in recent months, which analysts say reflects popular disappointment over the slow pace of progress.

"I am aware that you have given me a passing mark, but that you expect perfection from me. That is good in a way so it would push us to intensify our efforts," he said.

Rock bands

At the Philippine Sports Arena (formerly Ultra) in Pasig City, the celebration of his first year in office was marked with speeches from local officials and music from rock-rap bands like Gloc 9 and even a song sang and composed by actor Cesar Montano—all calling for people to be united behind the administration.

But Aquino's speech was not music to the ears of former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, who he said was "blind and deaf to the people's cries."

He said uncovering scams and fixing problems left behind by his predecessor continued to be the preoccupation of his administration.

He pointed out the Arroyo administration left agencies like the National Food Authority (NFA) with billions of pesos.

He said that NFA debts rose from P18 billion in the first year of Arroyo as president to a whopping P177 billion in her last year in office.

PCSO scam

He also mentioned the scam uncovered at the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, noting that the Arroyo administration had spent more money to "advertise the face of politicians on television but had no money to pay for the P3 billion it owes to government hospitals."

"Because of this debt that could not be paid, because of corruption the hospitals that the government provides funds for does not longer want to accept guarantees from its fellow government office," Aquino said.

Gloria Arroyo my opposite

He said unearthing this kind of irregularity was the change that his administration continued to push for.

"I will no longer spend time clashing with them. I thank Arroyo for admitting that she is my opposite. At last, on this point we have come to an agreement," he said.

The President was reiterating a statement he made last week after Arroyo said that the gains of her presidency were in danger of being eroded because there was "nobody-home" in the new administration.

Responding to Arroyo's tirade against him, Aquino said his administration had done a lot to help the people. He said he would let the people respond to the charges hurled against him that he did not do enough for them.

AP

President Benigno Aquino III gestures as he delivers his message before a big crowd of students and government officials during the celebration for his first year in office Thursday, June 30, 2011 in suburban Pasig City, east of Manila, Philippines.

Housing, cash transfer

These include the 21,800 families of policemen and soldiers who will have decent homes before the year ends, the 2 million poor families set to benefit from the conditional cash transfer program and the 240,000 farmers who will benefit from 2,000-kilometer farm-to-market roads finished in just one year, Aquino said.

"Isn't it clear that there is change?" he said.

More funds saved

He said that because of reforms in the government financial system, the government was able to save funds more than the amounts allocated by the General Appropriations Act to implement programs, the President said.

These include providing P12 billion for the "Pantawid Pasada" for transport workers affected by high oil prices, he said.

"Housing, rice, security, salaries, roads, Pantawid Pasada and other lifeguards for the people drowning from poverty. These are the changes that we are reaping now," he said.

All these became possible because the President said his administration "went after the crooks in government, fixed the government's finances and crooked system."

He said the country made considerable progress in just one year and that it could move further in the next five years of his watch.

Aquino did not want to comment when asked what grade he would give his administration in its first year.

"With our mandate from the people, and our commitment to uphold our people's expectation that they are our boss, the Aquino administration will not be cowed. We are living in a different neighborhood now, where our people are assured that justice is being served; and where those responsible for the suffering we have all endured for almost a decade will be held accountable," presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda said in a statement.

"We have already begun to establish the necessary reforms and no amount of naysaying will derail us from the straight and righteous path. If anything, these orchestrated attacks against the accomplishments of this new system of good governance only strengthen our resolve to continue building on our successes of the past year," Lacierda also said.

Credit rating upgrade

Lacierda summed up the achievements of the administration, which he said included "several upgrades in our credit ratings landmark policies and laws for economic and political reform, increased private domestic investments, hundreds of thousands of jobs generated leading to a decrease in unemployment."

He said these were "proof that our people's optimism is well founded."

Move forward

Continually blaming the Arroyo administration for the country's troubles did not sit well with some people.

While Gordon Alan Joseph, president of the Cebu Business Club, believed that the corruption in the past should be investigated to give justice to every Filipino, it was time for the President to move forward.

"He must start showing his leadership now. He has to perform and shouldn't just keep on blaming the previous President," Joseph said.

Joseph said he saw honesty in the Aquino administration but added that this was not enough.

While giving Aquino a passing grade in his first year of office, he asked him to perform instead of blaming the previous administration.

Joseph said his group would just give Aquino's first year performance an average grade because nothing happened to his anticorruption campaign and his private-public partnership programs.

"No one has been prosecuted in his anti-corruption drive. I do not see any progress in his PPP programs. But we are going to give him a chance," he said.

Southern Leyte Rep. Roger Mercado gave the administration a grade of 75, saying there was no concrete framework where the country would be going.

"He may have the best intention in purging corruption but it is wanting in immediate solutions," Mercado said. ***With reports from Jhunnex Napalacan and Jani Arnaiz, Inquirer Visayas; and AFP***

Provinces split on Aquino's first year

LAOAG CITY—Various sectors in Ilocos Norte appeared to be satisfied with the performance of President Aquino in his first year in office.

In an informal survey that the Philippine Information Agency conducted among members of the academe, nongovernment organizations, religious groups and government and private sectors, most gave the President a performance rating of 3 in a scale of 1 to 4, where 4 is the highest.

Mr. Aquino, according to the PIA survey, rated high in fighting graft and corruption, transparency, investigation and prosecution of government officials linked to various anomalies.

The respondents also cited the private sector participation in infrastructure projects, the control in prices of basic commodities and the ban on the use of sirens as among the positive aspects of his administration.

Some respondents were undecided when asked how the President performed in the areas of job and livelihood generation, improving quality of education, reducing poverty, controlling the incidents of dengue, peace initiatives with insurgents and other armed groups, and efforts to curb illegal gambling.

Hostage crisis

But Supt. Sterling Blanco, Laoag City police chief, said the Aquino administration showed weakness in the handling of the Manila hostage crisis, where eight Hong Kong tourists were killed in a botched rescue operation by the police.

"The President should have personally handled the situation considering that the hostages were foreigners. His presence would have shown his concern for the international community," he said.

In Nueva Ecija, Eduardo Nonato Joson, founder of the Citizen Power Movement, summed up the first year of Mr. Aquino as "failed expectations."

Joson, a former Nueva Ecija governor and representative, said the roads which the Aquino administration are treading "are still crooked and badly need repairs."

The continuation of the conditional cash transfer program, he said, highlights lack of economic vision and plan. This emphasized dependency rather than jobs, he added.

Anti-corruption

In Pampanga, Victoria Gaetos, Central Luzon governor of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said the Aquino administration's anti-corruption thrust is successful, particularly at the Department of Public Works and Highways. "But [Mr. Aquino] still has to be a hands-on leader. He still has to do the same in other income-generating agencies," she said.

In Pangasinan, Dagupan City Mayor Benjamin Lim rates Mr. Aquino's performance at 6 on a scale of 10.

"He has to hit the ground running. Kailangang magpakita ka ng gilas (You should show off) because you're supposed to be different from [former President] Gloria [Macapagal-Arroyo]," Lim said.

"But if you look at [Arroyo's] performance, she get results fast. She may cut corners but you can see the results immediately, or in a shorter span of time," said Lim.

To show he is serious, Mr. Aquino has to start making heads roll, even if those involved in wrongdoings are his friends or allies, Lim said.

"Eventually, people's confidence will erode if they continue to see that the President is not doing the right thing. He has to crack the whip," he said.

Crime campaign

He said Mr. Aquino had still to show he had done something substantial in health and education, and in reducing crimes such as the illegal drugs trade which has an impact on ordinary citizens.

Lina Melecio-Tan, chair of the Liwawa Ed Asinan Foundation, said Mr. Aquino means well to help the poor, but the success rate of his programs cannot be seen yet.

"It is good that the national government has extended its hand to the civil society groups to help, but the process is slow," she said.

In Bulacan, Fr. Prospero Tenorio, chair of community formation of the Malolos Diocese, gave the President a passing mark of 75.

"This is his first year in office. Let us give him the chance to show his worth and commitment to bring progress and development to our country," he said.

Alex Meneses, a resident of Bulacan town, gave Mr. Aquino a failing grade. "After one year, only the wang-wang (siren) policy has been fully implemented," he said. ***(Inquirer.net)***

Maharlika – PinoyStyle

Shia LaBeouf on his macho director and two new women

By RUBEN V. NEPALES
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Shia LaBeouf is a walking embodiment of a Gemini—a study in contrasts. He's a confounding mixture of braggadocio and insecurities, a man-child. But there's one constant factor that has made him an interesting interview subject over the years: his candor.

Lately, he has been owning up to the "disasters" that he fears would make the media focus on him as a personality rather than as an actor. Shia is referring to an incident in 2008, in which Chicago police arrested him for refusing to leave a drugstore chain branch in 2007 and a bar fight early this year.

"It's disastrous in my mind to get drunk and flip a truck," Shia said in an interview on the Paramount Studios lot. "It's disastrous to get hit in an accident when you're intoxicated… To sometimes say things and hurt other people's feelings. Bad behavior is disastrous to a person who's trying to not be known for his personality but for his work."

The "Transformers: Dark of the Moon" star began to talk about his scrapes when asked how being in show business has impacted his life.

"Believe it or not, this (being an actor) has been the most consistent relationship that I've ever had with a person, place or thing in my life thus far," he said. "I've been in this business for about 12 years. It has been my best friend, worst enemy and my family. I come from a family that broke up over finances and this business allowed that [financial problem] to disappear and for my family to sort of reintroduce themselves to one another and find balance."

Shia remains close to his parents who divorced in 1992.

Addisted to call sheets

"All my best friends, closest allies and greatest mentors come from this business," the actor added. "This is my passion. I'm addicted to call sheets. I like the process … When you enjoy what you do, it makes you a better person because there's more joy in your life."

Shia is also finding joy in his love life. Flashing his boyish grin, he revealed a new woman in his life after he broke up with actress Carey Mulligan last year. "I'm dating a nice girl," he said, looking thrilled. "She's not an actress. She's a student who goes to Cal State University, Long Beach. A sweet girl." Shia only said that his new girlfriend's name is Karolyn (published stories listed her last name as Pho).

"She's intelligent. She checks me when I'm off. She's into chess," Shia said. "She likes to be adventurous with me. She's really interested in culinary arts. I never had a cheese plate until I met her."

Shia pointed out that Karolyn cooks well, although he doesn't think she's going to be a chef. "She likes patterns, fabrics and photography."

On the screen, Shia has a new woman as well. Rosie Huntington-Whitey, an England-born Victoria's Secret model, plays Carly, his new love interest in the third "Transformers" installment. He recently admitted he had a fling with Megan Fox, who portrayed Mikaela in the previous "Transformers" movies.

"I love Megan," Shia said of the actress who reportedly did not get along with director Michael Bay. "She was a big part of my life, career and this movie series. But I received a new script and it had new characters. It didn't have Mikaela in it. I understand the negatives to her being there."

There was something interesting, Shia said, "about seeing a newcomer's (Rosie's) perspective again. I have my selfish negatives about losing a friend, of course, but I also see that the relationship (between his character and Megan's) couldn't have expanded any further than it had."

In praise of Rosie

Despite being a successful young male star blessed with good looks, Shia confessed: "With my self-esteem being what it is, when I first met Rosie, I went, 'There's no way.' There's no way this person would find any interest in me. She's way above my league. So naturally, I have my 25-year-old male fears. But as you talk to her, she doesn't carry herself like a person who looks like that… She's nurturing, playful and has a sparkle about her that I've never seen in any other actress that I've worked with."

Unlike Megan, who was reportedly uncomfortable about her sexy role in the earlier movies, Rosie is at ease being "the girl" in a Michael Bay movie, according to Shia. "This is like a sex-driven role so for her to have that Victoria's Secret background really gives her a spine and roots her in a comfortable zone, like having to wear a certain type of outfit that isn't Jane Eyre," he said.

Shia also reported that Rosie knows how to cope in a testosterone-heavy Michael Bay set. "She knows how to deal with the personalities on the set who are forceful, prideful and loud," the actor remarked. "She's like a referee in that regard. It's funny she said that she leaned on me throughout the filming, but I found myself leaning on Rosie a lot because in situations that would seem difficult to me, she would brush them off and she'd find joy right away … That helps a lot when you're in the middle of a firefight and you're in the trench. She's sort of the jester that way. You don't expect that personality to be in that individual. I didn't and I was pleasantly surprised."

The conversation returned to an admission by Shia. What are his fears as a 25-year-old? It was almost hard to believe that this confident young man has anxieties but then again, Geminis like him are supposed to have split personalities.

"There's insecurity with being 25," he said. "At least from what I can see. You're in the midst of creating your foundation for your 30s. In my mind, I find that at 25, you have to strap on your big boy pants now… I have fears naturally."

Shia disclosed, "I probably have more insecurities than a man who's in his 30s, has a family, kids, something stable like that which gives him fulfillment."

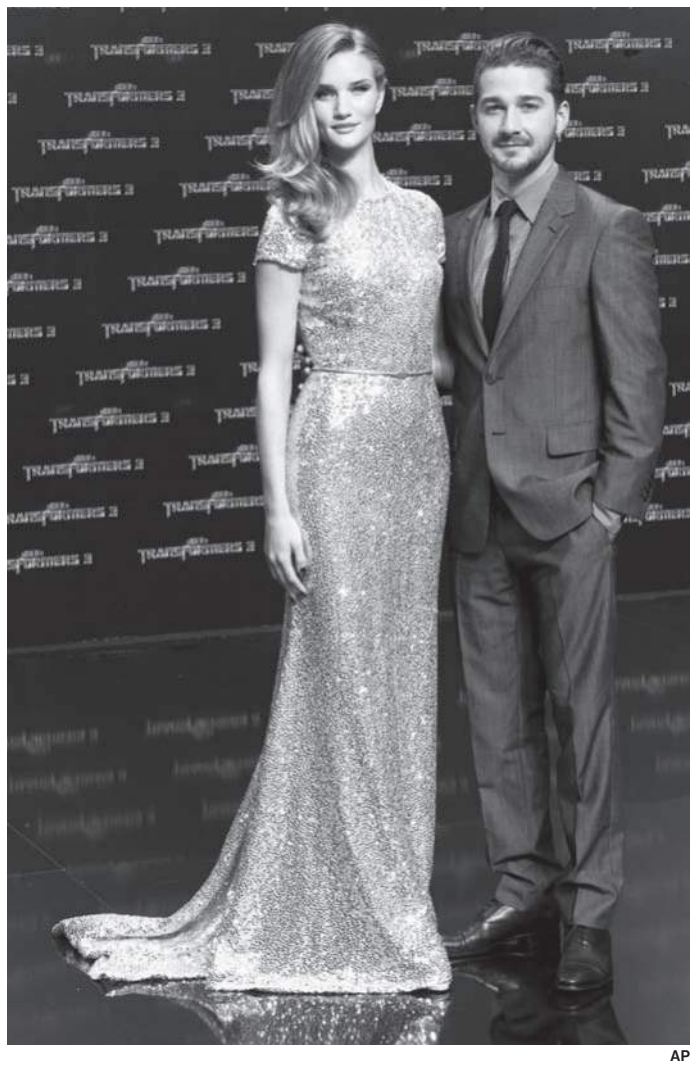
On his bombastic director, Shia commented" "First and foremost, Michael and I love each other. I enjoy him thoroughly and we have a great time making this movie. But it does take a certain energy and there's a certain friction that needs to exist for us to push each other. We work 15 hours a day.

"In that set, you need one leader but you also need a bunch of cheerleaders. The crew members feel like they need to have a spokesperson for them because you have a man who has to be a general to get these 90 people to move at a fast pace. It's really outrageous what we do. For the crew, you need one person with a vision who's blunt and unmistakably direct. Michael is that and sometimes that doesn't bode well with certain people's personalities. But you need to be able to adapt to get through this movie. The crew has a spokesman in me. There's never a mystery where Michael is the director or not. He's always the master and commander but there is this jovial, brotherly thing that we have that breaks up the monotony of the day."

Making fun of Michael

And that can include, Shia said, "making fun of Michael's hairstyle, his old music video lifestyle or his love of '80s R&B music. We'll go at it all day and sometimes you'll catch him at the wrong time, but that doesn't stop me from doing it. If I ever hurt Michael's feelings, I will apologize."

Is it possible to hurt the macho director's feelings? "It's very possible," he quipped, grinning. "He's a very sensitive dude, too, believe it or not. He has a heart that can also be broken."



AP

Actors Rosie Huntington-Whiteley and Shia LaBeouf, from left, attend the German premiere of the movie Transformers 3 in Berlin on Saturday, June 25, 2011.

Miriam Q: I want a baby

By ALLAN POLICARPIO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Miriam Quiambao threw her head back and laughed when asked what her dream role was. Then she quipped, "Sa TV o sa totoong buhay?"

The 1999 Miss Universe first runner-up, former TV host and now, actress, couldn't name a particular character, and said she'd be grateful for any good offers on TV and in the movies. (She talked with Inquirer Entertainment at the recent press launch for the TV5 fantasy series, "Bangis.")

But when the conversation turned to her real-life wishes, Miriam didn't even blink as she said, "I want to become a mother and raise my own kids."

Miriam, 36, said she had always been fascinated by motherhood. She said it's one of the noblest roles a woman could play. "You let go of everything you have, just to make your child happy. It's such a selfless role."

But is she ready for a new relationship, after marriage with her Italian ex-husband Claudio Rondinelli fell apart just a few of years ago?

"Sana, kasi feeling ko handa na ako!" she stressed. She's been getting to know a few guys, she added, "but I need to take things slowly. I have to find the right one."

Fittingly, Miriam plays Josie, mother of main child protagonist Eboy (BJ Go) in "Bangis."

She welcomed the role, both as a challenge and a preparation of sorts—for when she gets to have her own child.

Quiambao

Maricel Soriano accused of beating up maids

MANILA, Philippines—Two housemaids of actress Maricel Soriano accused the veteran actress of allegedly beating them when they guested live in Mon Tulfo's Isumbong Mo Kay Tulfo program on 990 AM Thursday.

May Cachuela, 22, and Camille Acojedo, 18, said the incident happened 8pm Wednesday at Soriano's residence at the Rizal Tower in Rockwell, Makati City.

Cachuela said Soriano, who is known in the industry as the "Diamond Star," became furious and kicked her on the leg when the actress apparently did not like the arrangement of the clothes that she would be using in a showbiz engagement.

Cachuela added that Soriano's son Sebastian saw the incident and asked his mother not to hurt her.

Acojedo also claimed that she had seen Soriano allegedly using illegal drugs, resulting in the Diamond Star's odd behavior at times and prompting their celebrity employer to throw cuss words at them.

990AM tried to get in touch with Soriano to air her side about the allegations of the two, who had been with the Soriano household for only two weeks, but was not picking up her phone.

Meanwhile, Soriano's personal assistant Inday Castillo said in a phone interview that Cachuela and Acojedo's allegations were not true and that they were only making up stories.

"I wasn't aware of Maricel's problem concerning her househelps. I'm now trying to find out," Malou Choa-Fagar, Soriano's business manager, told *Inquirer Entertainment.*

990AM has learned that there was a previous complaint against Soriano in Barangay (village) Poblacion, Makati City for allegedly failing to give three months' worth of salary of another housemaid.

Cachuela and Acojedo are decided on pressing charges against the award-winning actress. ***(Inquirer.net)***

Maharlika – Opinyon

Aquino's first year

President Aquino ended yesterday his first year in office clutching at straws to show proof that the country has moved forward and is in a better shape than it was when he took power from the most reviled government since the Marcos dictatorship.

The country was not in a celebratory mood (there was little to celebrate in terms of achievements) and even the government appeared weary and the President's call on all the people, most of all the political opposition, to back his reform programs got only a lukewarm public response. He tried to whip up public enthusiasm by launching the Pilipinas Natin campaign at the Philippine Sports Arena in Pasig City, but the drive turned out to be a sloganeering exercise that appeared aimed at revitalizing the already tired theme "Kung walang corrupt, walang mahirap."

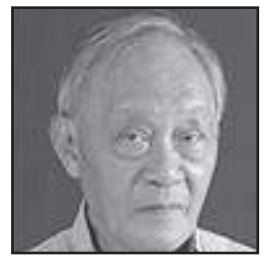
Malacañang said the event was about revisiting the vision and renewing the commitment made by the President, but even then, presidential spokes-persons were not ready to unfold the Philippine Development Plan for 2011-2016 (something like a five-year plan) billed as containing the administration's "vision of governance." They promised that the program "will be explained in detail in the next few weeks by members of the Cabinet."

This was an admission that the administration has already been in office for a year, but it is beginning only now to unwrap its program of government, with the implication that during its first year it was governing with nothing more than slogans and without a blueprint of action.

Pilipinas Natin is "both a call and a challenge," said a Palace official. "It is a call to take part in nation-building, a call for bayanihan but at the same time a challenge for solidarity."

This call was expressed in the most banal and uninspiring language. "This will also test the maturity of each and every Filipino," a spokesperson said. "We are mature enough to cross those lines that divide us and say, 'Let's unite because it's our Philippines after all.'"

Another spokesperson (there are at least four of them, all delivering different messages) said the launch was a "milestone event" in that the administration was "reaffirming its commitment" to the people and seeking their support. When asked how Malacañang could expect cooperation from the opposition when it was pursuing cases against the past president, the spokersperson said the No. 1 item in the administration's vision was "a reawakened sense of right and wrong through the living examples of our highest leaders." The question elicited more sermons, which has not produced perceptible results. The spokesman also pointed out that ferreting out the scandals of the past administration was part of its goal of "reconciliation with justice."



Analysis

By AMANDO DORONILA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

This explanation for the continuing emphasis of the administration on unearthing the allegedly corrupt transactions of the Arroyo government was made by the spokesperson who said the President had no "agenda to quarrel (with) and engage in tirades with anyone," describing these actions against the opposition as "all in the spirit of democratic discourse." But discourse on corruption is not all what democracy is about. Democracy is also about delivering results in economic development and providing jobs and not just giving the poor cash that don't produce goods and services

A week before the end of Mr. Aquino's first year in office, the administration dredged out yet another scandal alleging that former President Arroyo and officials in the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office had used the PCSO as a "milking cow" by extracting money for doles for the poor and the sick, by mixing funds for operating expenses with those for charity work, thus allowing it to spend more than its budget in the past two years. Evidence unearthed by the government showed that these disbursements left the agency with over P4 billion in debts.

There is no indication where and when the exhumation of corruption scandals of the Arroyo administration would end and where it is leading to or if these will be followed by the filing of criminal cases.

Aside from these actions in the anti-corruption front, questions have started to appear about what else the administration has done. As it enters its second year, it is facing an erosion of its trust and satisfaction ratings. A Pulse Asia survey shows that the administration scored "majority approval ratings in six of 11 national concerns." The survey done from May 21 to June 4 shows that the administration was doing well in fighting criminality, in enforcing the law equally among Filipinos. The survey found that 56 percent gave the administration positive marks in fighting corruption, 53 percent in creating more jobs, and 51 percent, in increasing workers' pay. But the downside is that only 39 percent approved of what the administration was doing to control inflation, and 40 percent approved of its campaign to reduce poverty. Poverty alleviation was a key element in the President's Inaugural Address linked to his slogan against corruption.

There were expressions of disgruntlement and disappointment over the President's performance in regard to issues affecting the business sector. The European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines said that the "basis for rapid development has been created in the first year but turning that into action will make the difference." It added: "The same is true for fighting corruption: some progress has been made, but it will require more resolve to succeed in government and in the private sector."

Peter Angelo, executive director of the Makati Business Club, said, "The first year of the Aquino presidency was mostly foundation work, cleaning up, and reviewing, but definitely in the second year, we expect much more action."

EDITORIAL

People's mandate

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A year ago yesterday, President Aquino uttered the line that would forever define his image—if not in history, then at least in the country's short tradition of presidential inaugurations. "Kayo ang boss ko," he said, in the process triggering a massive landslide of misinterpretations. We do not think he meant he would govern by public opinion or through social surveys—that is not leadership but pandering. At the same time, we do not think he would tack to the opposite and spurn public opinion either—it is in the country's best interests that he hears what the surveys say.

Well, what do his bosses think of Mr. Aquino's first year in office? One result of the second-quarter Social Weather Stations survey is a boost, an advertisement, for political maturity. Some 68 percent of respondents nationwide say it was "too early to tell" whether the President would be successful or not. After all, one year is barely enough time to make a difference, for better or worse. Indeed, this seems only common sense—except when understood in the context of our still divisive politics.

From one perspective, the public's unhurried approach to judgment may be explained by two factors. First, much of the public continues to share the view that the mandate of the 2010 vote remains valid: anywhere between three-fourths and nine-tenths of the electorate may be said to have voted "against" corruption, and a solid majority continues to back the fight against it. Second, a substantial portion of the public realizes that the struggle against an entrenched culture of corruption does not end in immediate victory, but is instead a slow, agonizing, tediously complicated effort: a war of attrition.

These two factors help explain the public's wait-and-see attitude. We realize, of course, that how an administration conducts itself in its first year is a valid gauge for anticipating its performance through the rest of its term, in the exact same way that how a campaign conducts itself during the election period is a valid gauge for anticipating its conduct during the first year of office. That is precisely why we have criticized aspects of the administration or its style of governance: they have a bearing on what will happen in the next five years. But the validity of the measure is conditional.

In the meantime, we would all do well to listen to what the public is saying. In the aggregate, they tell us that the campaign to right a legion of wrongs must continue.

Goodbye, Garci

Comelec Chairman Sixto Brilliantes had some pretty astonishing things to say the other day.

He won't be preoccupied with the "Hello, Garci" case, he said. "Hindi iyan ang priority ko. Wala pa naman ako dito nung nangyari iyan." (That's not my priority. I wasn't here yet when that happened.) What he means to do instead is clean up the house and institute reforms in time for the next elections. "Ang priority ko: Ano ba ang plano? Ano ang mangyayari sa Comelec? Hindi yung nakaraan kundi yung dumarating." (My priority is: What is our plan? What will happen to the Comelec? My concern is not what's behind us but what's in front of us.")

Brilliantes made these remarks after his appointment was deferred for a second time by the Commission on Appointments upon the objections of Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano. Cayetano wanted to know what he was doing with the "Garci boys"—Virgilio Garcillano's protégés who helped him mount the cheating in 2004—who not only are still with the Comelec but have gotten promoted there. Chief of them, ARMM regional director Ray Sumalipao.

There's The Rub

By CONRADO DE QUIROS
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

"Bakit daw promoted si Sumalipao? Malay ko. Panahon pa yata ni Chairman (Resurreccion) Borra. Anong gagawin ko? Andiyan na siya e. Wala namang ginagawa. Anong gusto nila? Tanggalin ko dahil sa assumption na Garci boy siya?" (They're asking why Sumalipao has been promoted. How should I know? I think that happened way back during Borra's time. What can I do? He's already there. And he's not doing anything wrong. What do they want? I should kick him out on the assumption he is a Garci boy?)

Well, if that's the quality of his thinking, then he truly ought to have his appointment deferred indefinitely. Or better still, P-Noy ought to remove him posthaste from a position he does not deserve.

Can anything be more inane than saying "Hello, Garci" is not your priority because it happened before your time? The Maguindanao Massacre happened before Leila de Lima's time too. So what is Brilliantes saying, she should not consider it a priority as well because of that? There is no statute of limitations on the murder of innocents, particularly a massacre of the scale and ferocity with which it was done. And it is the job of the justice secretary above all to see that justice is done. There is no statute of limitations on the slaughter of democracy, particularly given the deliberateness and viciousness with which it was done. And it is the job of the Comelec head above all to see that justice is done.

Justice first of all to the Comelec itself.

Cayetano's objections are by no means unreasonable. What is the job of the Comelec? The job of the Comelec is to ensure fair and clean elections, a job it has largely failed to do in the past, earning for itself only a reputation for ensuring rigged and dirty elections. The worst of it coming during Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's time, when she brazenly called up a Comelec commissioner, Virgilio Garcillano, to demand that she win over her nearest rival by a million votes. You harbor the same snakes in your house, and even promote them, how can you possibly do your job? A job not quite incidentally that takes on urgent meaning in light of P-Noy's promise to end corruption in this country. Can anything be more corrupt than stealing the vote?

Of course, we don't want Brilliantes to boot out Sumalipao and company on the mere assumption that they are Garci boys. But if he makes investigating "Hello, Garci" a priority, if he makes ferreting out who exactly helped Garci—and Benjamin Abalos—wreak the worst political crime in this country in the 21st century a priority, he won't be booting them out on mere assumption, he'll be booting them out on stout certainty.

What makes his statement that he wants to put the past behind him and look only ahead at the future especially pathetic is that this year marks the 150th birthday of Jose Rizal, the one person especially noted for saying, "Ang hindi marunong lumingon sa pinanggalingan ay hindi makakaratiing sa pinatutunguhan." How can you possibly assure a bright future for the Comelec if you cannot correct its murky past?

Brilliantes' priority is, "Ano ang mangyayari sa Comelec?" Easy to answer. With the kind of blindness he's showing, it is headed for disaster.

Justice second of all to the country.

At the very least justice for Fernando Poe Jr., the person "Hello, Garci" robbed of the presidency. There's no statute of limitations either, or shouldn't be, on a candidate being proclaimed winner long after his term has gone, or even long after he is dead. FPJ deserves to be known as the president who never was, and Arroyo only the president who should never have been.

While at that, enough of that idiocy that Arroyo might actually have won as president despite "Hello, Garci." "Hello, Garci" was a crime to end all electoral crimes. Her commission of it should never have sent her to Malacañang, it should have sent her to Muntinlupa. Never too late to rectify a mistake, and the Comelec should be taking the lead in it.

At the very most justice for everybody else, especially the victims of the killings, who were the hundreds of political activists massacred just to keep Arroyo in power. "Hello, Garci" was the original sin, all the other sins of the Arroyo regime flowed from it. The lying, the cheating, the stealing and the murders flowed from it. It was the illegitimacy of the regime that compelled the illegality of its actions. It was the fakeness of the rule that compelled the viciousness of its actions. The Comelec may not move on without rectifying the past, government may not move on without cleansing the present, this country may not move on without guaranteeing a future free of frauds.

We don't say goodbye to Garci if we'll never say hello to Grace.

Maharlika – Samu't Sari

CONFIRMATION
Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota), third from right, and other senators pose for a group photo with Frank P. Rosario, fifth from right, after the Senate confirmed Thursday his reappointment to serve on the NMI Retirement Fund board of trustees.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

30 YEARS OF DEDICATION
Retiring San Vicente Elementary School principal Joaquina Salas, center, receives a plaque of appreciation from Board of Education chair Marylou Ada and Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan during Thursday's ceremonies at the board's conference room. Salas was honored for her 30 years of dedication and commitment to service to the school system.

MONETH G. DEPOSA

TOP PERFORMERS
Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School principal Charlotte Camacho, center, is flanked by Tinian High School principal Julian Hofschneider and vice principal Eric San Nicolas during yesterday's awarding rites at the Board of Education conference room. GTC and Tinian High were named top performers this school year after achieving the highest scores in a recent battery test. With them are members of the Education Board and Public School System Commissioner Rita A. Sablan.

MONETH G. DEPOSA

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR
Newly installed Saipan Rotary Club president Pete Igitol, second from right, past president Glen Perez, left, and Rotarian David Igitol, right, present a plaque of appreciation to James Feger after naming him the Rotary's Citizen of the Year on June 28, 2011. Rocball, the islands' only indigenous sport, was created by Feger in 1979 and copyrighted a few years after.

CLARISSA DAVID

SWEARING IN
Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, seated, signs official letters during the swearing in of Ray Mafnas as public safety commissioner and Larrisa Larson as Finance secretary, second from right, while Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos, right, looks on during a brief ceremony on June 14 at the Office of the Governor on Capital Hill.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

YoungStyle

MCT

Melissa, left, and Shawn Gerleman, right, poses for portrait with their daughter Avery, June 24, 2011, in Wichita, Kansas. Avery's 87 day battle with death and her recovery is now the being considered a miracle attributed to Fr. Emil Kapaun.

No medical explanation for Wichita girl's recovery, doctors told Vatican

By ROY WENZL
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

WICHITA, Kan.—As Avery Gerleman's condition continued to deteriorate, and the auto-immune disorder continued to ravage her internal organs, her doctors began seeing more surprises.

They still thought the 12-year-old girl was going to die. But about a week or two after pediatric intensivist Lindall Smith pulled out the ventilator tube, pediatric nephrologist Michelle Stuart Hilgenfeld discovered that Avery's kidneys were functioning.

This baffled Hilgenfeld. With the damage she had seen to the kidneys in her early biopsies, this should not be happening.

Hilgenfeld had been sure that if Avery by some miracle survived, she'd need constant dialysis or a kidney transplant.

When kidneys shut down, even for a day or two, they often don't start functioning again. Even if they do, they might regain only 30 percent of their function.

But five weeks after Avery's kidneys shut down, they came back on line.

There is no case like this anywhere in the medical literature, Hilgenfeld thought.

Hilgenfeld and Smith had done all they could, and they could do a lot. Hilgenfeld had seen Smith repeatedly save Avery with science and persuasion.

She knew neither of them were miracle workers. She is a Mennonite, a denomination which has none of the Catholic traditions of miracles.

But she knew, because she had seen some unexplainable things before, that there are times in crises where patients recover in a way that surpasses not only medical science but human understanding.

■■■

The doctors said Shawn and Melissa Gerleman, Avery's parents, stood up to Avery's 87 days of near-death in the hospital in heroic fashion. Grace under pressure.

Shawn said that wasn't true, that he's a sinner like everybody else. There were times, he said, when he snapped at the nurses.

"I notice that some nurses are immune to (alarm) bells," he wrote one night in his diary.

There was one moment, he said, on Nov. 18, when the respiratory therapists were having trouble getting the oxygen line to his daughter to work properly. Avery was quickly starving for oxygen, and Shawn himself figured out what was wrong—he walked over to the wall where the oxygen line was hooked up, and saw that they'd forgotten to plug it in.

"You didn't turn it on!" he said with some heat. "That's respiratory therapy 101!"

But mistakes like that were rare.

Shawn and Melissa thought that with few exceptions, Avery was getting the best medical care on the planet.

But they stayed cordial with the nurses most of the time. And kept praying to Father Emil Kapaun, the former Kansas priest who died in 1951 and is being considered for sainthood. Others prayed for them, too.

On Nov. 1, All Saints Day in the Catholic Church calendar, Father Eric Weldon—a priest at St. Patrick's, the Gerlemans' church—asked everyone in the parish to pray for Avery's life and recovery.

Shortly after, when she saw birthday balloons beside her bed and realized she had missed her birthday, Avery became upset, and they consoled her. Then later, she woke up again with no memory of these things, and saw the balloons, and they consoled her again.

Meanwhile, though, there were few encouraging signs: her body continued to leak blood and water where the tubes stuck out of her; she got smaller and lighter, and the alarm bells and buzzers on her room full of machines kept sounding, each alarm perhaps foretelling Avery's imminent death.

But while this was going on, encouraging things kept happening, which baffled the doctors.

Hilgenfeld finally said something dramatic to the Gerlemans, on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 23, after she got over the shock of seeing the girl's kidneys performing well.

"If someone does not know God, introduce them to Avery Gerleman."

Slowly but surely, as November drifted toward December, medical victories became more frequent.

Doctors pulled tubes out of Avery's thin body one by one. They began to reduce the medications. Avery began to eat bits of soup and other foods.

On Nov. 25, 2006, Avery, a huge University of Kansas basketball fan, watched part of the Jayhawks' game against the Florida Gators, though she fell asleep halfway through.

The next day, as it dawned on her how her parents had sat by her side day and night, she told her dad how much she liked how he and her mom took care of her. Avery told them how grateful she was.

■■■

On Dec. 4, as the hospital staff put Avery through physical therapy that caused her almost torturous pain, she stood up, a sight that no doctor had dared hope for.

By that time, because of the e-mails the Gerlemans were getting, they knew that people and prayer chains all over the world were praying for her; in Italy, in England, and other places far and wide.

People in many churches in Wichita were praying to Kapaun and Jesus and many of the saints. Avery's Wichita Attack soccer team, including the Protestant players, were saying rosaries for her with their Catholic teammates.

Other parents in Wesley Medical Center's pediatric intensive care unit, struggling to help keep their own children alive, were praying for Avery.

Every day now she became more awake and aware, and Smith and Hilgenfeld and other doctors kept finding surprises.

Later, after they scanned her lungs and kidneys, they saw what seemed impossible: no scarring, not much tissue damage. It was like peering into a building after it burned and seeing no burn marks on the walls. It did not make sense.

Her lungs had been so destroyed that Smith had told the parents that Avery, if she survived, would have to be on oxygen for the rest of her life.

But six months after Avery walked out of Wesley, she was playing competitive soccer again.

Was it a miracle?

"I don't know, but I think so," Avery said. "I think it was, but I struggle with what I think about.

"It seems weird: Why would God choose me?"

Her parents told her that perhaps her story was meant to show skeptics about God's glory.

But after thinking about her survival for a long time, Avery, now 17, told her parents this year, with one year to go in high school, that she wanted to turn the meaning of her survival into something more tangible.

She said she would become a doctor or a nurse, and spend the rest of her life helping the sick.

■■■

Three years after Avery's recovery, in 2009, Vatican representative Andrea Ambrosi came to Wichita to investigate what the church calls "alleged miracles."

Ambrosi came to interview the Gerlemans and the family of Chase Kear, a college track athlete who had inexplicably survived a pole-vaulting accident in October 2008.

The church's effort to sort out Kapaun's candidacy for sainthood, dormant for decades, had heated up after Father John Hotze, of Kapaun's old Wichita diocese, had reported these two cases.

Ambrosi, a lawyer by training, had not come to validate the cases, but to play devil's advocate and see whether he could poke holes in the stories. But as he told Hotze later, he was surprised at what he found.

Chase had smashed his skull on the ground when he missed the vaulting mat in practice. His neurosurgeon told Ambrosi Chase's survival was a miracle.

Chase's parents and family had prayed hundreds of prayers to Kapaun in the weeks that Chase hovered near death.

In their meeting with Ambrosi, Shawn and Melissa did nothing to gild or embellish the story of how their daughter survived.

Shawn had struggled with the decision about whether to even talk to the Vatican representative. He knew that Jesus and Kapaun had stressed, by word and action, that humility and humbleness were virtues to be cultivated every day.

He believed the same. He did not think that he or his family should be thought of as special, or better than anyone else.

He did not want his teenage daughter to become distracted, or to become less humble, by being put on some sort of miracle pedestal created either by the media or the Vatican.

He and Melissa also felt compassion and empathy for the other parents they had met in the hospital's intensive care unit who fought—and sometimes lost—grievous battles to save their own children.

Shawn and Melissa also believed that because of God's grace, Kapaun and many other good people already were saints in heaven, whether the Gerlemans talked to the Vatican or not.

They and Avery were sure about several things, though: That God is good, that God and the saints listen to prayer, but that God's true purposes in matters of life and death are mysteries beyond our reckoning.

Shawn and Melissa told the story matter-of-factly to Ambrosi. They did not say Avery's recovery had happened "immediately," or even quickly, even when prompted by Ambrosi's questions.

They did this despite knowing that saying so would boost Kapaun's chances. Under the church's rules about sainthood, miracles work into the formula about whether someone should be canonized.

They said Avery had great care from Hilgenfeld, Smith and many other medical specialists.

Those two doctors, though, took a different tack.

They told Ambrosi that they were stunned by Avery's survival, by her lack of tissue damage, by her apparently complete recovery. They told Ambrosi, through his Italian interpreter, that there was no scientific explanation for what happened.

They were so passionate about this that at one point, Hotze saw that both Hilgenfeld and Smith had tears in their eyes as they talked to Ambrosi.

Later, when Hotze drove Ambrosi to Wichita Mid-Continent Airport, Ambrosi told him, through his interpreter, that both the Kear and Gerleman cases were unusually good, especially the Gerleman case.

He told him that in all his years of poking holes in miracle stories for the Vatican, he had never heard a story as persuasive as what the Gerlemans' doctors told.

The case for Kapaun was looking hopeful indeed, Ambrosi said. And he said that it was a good thing that Hotze had found two such good Catholic doctors to tell this story to the Vatican.

"But Dr. Ambrosi," Hotze said, "they are not Catholic."

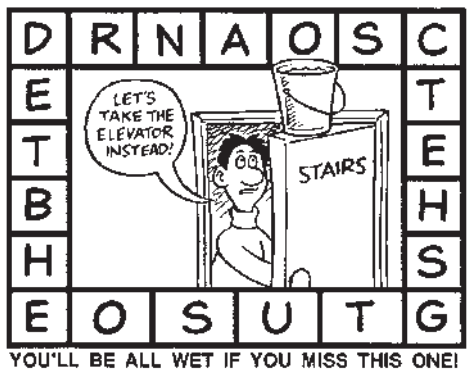
Ambrosi, startled, gave Hotze a long look. Then he spoke again, and the interpreter relayed his words:

"You're kidding me!"

"No, I'm not," Hotze said. "They are Protestants."

Ambrosi looked surprised, and baffled, and intrigued.

Even the Protestants thought it was a miracle.



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YOU'LL BE ALL WET IF YOU MISS THIS ONE! Hidden in the above frame is a famous old saying. You can find it by reading every other letter as you go around it counterclockwise. The trick is finding the right first letter.

Answer: Starting with the "S" in the right-hand rail: "Second thoughts are best."

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

CAN YOU "RISE" TO THIS CHALLENGE?

S	T	N	E	C	S	E	R	C	R	A	C	K	E	D
H	G	U	O	D	R	U	O	S	K	C	I	T	S	N
S	T	E	P	M	U	R	C	H	E	E	S	E	F	I
R	U	K	F	G	N	I	D	A	E	N	K	R	R	S
U	N	A	M	M	I	N	I	H	C	C	U	Z	E	I
O	O	B	E	H	C	O	I	R	B	A	N	A	N	A
L	N	A	I	L	A	T	I	T	A	E	H	W	C	R
F	L	R	O	L	L	S	D	O	U	G	H	A	H	B

Illustrated by David Coulson

Hidden in the diagram above are names and words associated with baking. They can be found by reading up or down, side to side, or even diagonally going up or down. Letters can be used more than once. Listed below are the words you're looking for.

BAKE	CRUMPETS	NUT
BANANA	DOUGH	RAISIN
BRIOCHE	FLOUR	ROLLS
CHEESE	FRENCH	SOURDOUGH
CORNMEAL	ITALIAN	STICKS
CRACKED	KNEADING	WHEAT
CRESCENTS	LOAF	ZUCCHINI

DOODLE PICS! The two pictures shown here are graphic presentations of familiar words, phrases or names. You have one minute to identify both.

LSONAW

FIG. 1

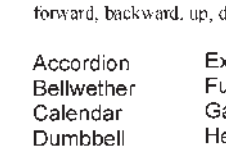
NOSE

FIG. 2

Answers: (1) Son-in-law (2) Nose dive.

THE "G" PYRAMID! As you move down the word puzzle shown here, each word contains the same letters as the word above it, plus a new letter. We give you all the G's. Here are some hints from the top down.

1. A movie rating.
2. Symbol for silver.
3. Fail to keep pace.
4. A very strong wind.
5. A devious scheme (sl).
6. A complicated mess.
7. A hybrid fruit.
8. To make longer.



Answers: The words are: G, AG, lag, gale, angle, tangle, tangelo, elongate.

Pet odors: When funk attacks

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: We bathe and brush our dog "Clint" regularly and wash his bedding, but our apartment still smells kind of funky. Is there any way to totally rid our place of that dog odor?—Karen in Long Island, N.Y.

DEAR KAREN: I'm not sure it's 100 percent possible to completely get rid of pet odors, but you can tackle some common problem areas to minimize the odors. The American Kennel Club recently published some tips to combat pet odors, especially in hidden areas you might not have thought of:

■ Wash Clint's bed coverings and blankets every week.

■ Buy a spare set of bed coverings or blankets to swap out and wash.

■ Sweep and mop underneath the pet bed and in and around Clint's kennel cage at least once a week.

■ Cover throw pillows around the house with washable coverings.

■ Check under furniture or in other spots where Clint hides to make sure he isn't stashing old bones or leftovers there.

■ Once a month or whenever they start getting funky, wash Clint's toys with soapy water and let dry completely.

■ Before vacuuming the house, sprinkle baking soda over the carpet to absorb minor odors.

■ Wash other textiles more frequently, such as curtains and area rugs, to remove fur and odor.

■ If Clint has an accident indoors, clean up as quickly as possible, wash the spot with mild soap and water, and blot dry. If odor lingers in that spot, the padding underneath may be affected; air out by lifting the carpet away, or replace that section of carpet and padding.

■ ■ ■

Send your question or comment to ask@pawscorner.com, or write to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. For more pet care-related advice and information, visit www.pawscorner.com.

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Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

■ It was prolific British author G.K. Chesterton who made the following sage observation: "An adventure is only an inconvenience rightly considered. An inconvenience is an adventure wrongly considered."

■ According to the Guinness Book of Records, the world's longest place name belongs to a hill in New Zealand, which is known as Taumatawhakatangihangak oauauotamateaturipukaka pikimaungahoronukupokaiwhe nua kitanatahu. When translated from Maori, the language of the native people, the name reads "place where Tamatea, the man with the big knees, who slid, climbed and swallowed mountains, known as land-eater, played his flute to his loved one."

■ If you're planning a vacation to the Four Corners area of the American West, you might want to consider staying at a bed-and-breakfast just north of Farmington, N.M. One of the most unusual lodgings in the country, Kokopelli's Cave Bed and Breakfast is, as the name suggests, in a cave. Described as a "luxury cliff dwelling," the cave is reached via a footpath from the top of a mesa.

■ The poison produced by the golden poison dart frog, found in the rainforests of Colombia, is so toxic that one-third of an ounce is enough to kill 100,000 people.

■ In a traditional Hungarian wedding, the bride is supposed to ensure the health of her future children by smashing an egg. How the smashing of an egg is supposed to accomplish this feat is unclear.

■ You might be surprised to learn that when you snap, the sound isn't produced when the tip of your finger hits the tip of your thumb. The sound actually occurs when the tip of your finger makes contact with the base of your thumb.

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "Lying to ourselves is more deeply ingrained than lying to others."—Fyodor Dostoevsky

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MAGIC MAZE ● OFTEN MISSPELLED

L	A	L	E	N	R	E	K	P	N	K	I	F	C	A
X	C	S	V	S	X	A	Q	O	L	J	H	E	C	A
X	C	V	U	C	Y	T	D	L	R	P	N	L	E	J
H	O	F	E	O	D	R	L	N	I	B	Y	X	G	V
T	R	E	H	T	E	W	L	L	E	B	B	M	U	D
R	D	P	M	O	M	S	K	E	E	L	R	I	A	G
E	I	L	L	I	F	L	U	F	W	P	A	A	G	D
B	O	Z	X	W	T	E	U	A	T	E	S	C	R	R
Q	N	O	N	L	U	S	J	I	N	G	J	S	F	Y
D	C	A	Y	Q	E	T	A	T	I	M	I	X	I	W
V	T	T	H	G	I	E	H	P	S	R	P	O	N	M

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Accordion	Exceed	Imitate	Nauseous
Bellwether	Fulfill	Jewelry	Pastime
Calendar	Gauge	Kernel	Queue
Dumbbell	Height	Misspell	

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

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1 2 2 3 4 5 6 8 9

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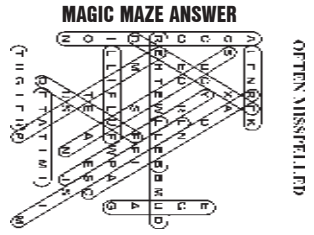
MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



GO FIGURE ANSWER

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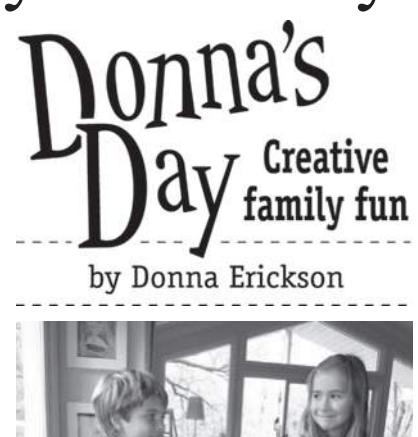
'Scrubbing day is a holiday'



"Squirt ... and slide, squirt ... and slide," chant 7-year-olds Cy and his friend Jane, as they clean and polish hardwood floors to the beat of Beatles tunes. Simply put, they're dancing away the grime!

Reminiscent of the Pippi Longstocking caper where the unconventional Pippi and her best friends Tommy and Annika fastened scrub brushes to the bottom of their feet and breezed through mounting soap suds on the kitchen floor, singing "Scrubbing day, is a holiday!" Cy and his friends have discovered that cleaning floors can be playful in their homes, too.

Inexpensive hand towels are wrapped under and over their feet and fastened together at the ankles with a thick rubber band. When the music blasts through the speakers in the family room, on cue they grab decorated plastic water bottles filled with a vinegar/water cleaning solution (one part white vinegar to three parts water) and begin their "squirt ... and slide" routine to clean and shine the hardwood floors.

"Keeping a home clean and organized can be lighthearted and fun," says Cy's dad, Tim Gleason, father of three and owner of a neighborhood car-repair shop. Even friends like to join in from time to time. When kids perform their version of adult tasks, responsibility triumphs.

He coined a term— "Team Gleason"—to encourage his young children to work together as a family team when getting everyday jobs done. "'Done' might not be the same standard I might set for myself, but who cares if there are a few streaks here or leftover spots there," he concedes. "When doing summer chores, it's really about being together, learning something new and connecting on common ground."

To motivate your kids to get into chores this summer, give them a fun tool, and they'll be set. Here are some

right tools for the right kid job:

■ 99-cent plastic spray bottle. Anytime school-age kids can use a spray bottle, they can have fun. Fill with a safe natural cleaning solution for cleaning floors, kitchen counters, bikes and toys. Use in a well-ventilated area. Or, fill with plain water to spritz on plants.

■ Squeegee. School-age kids can wash easy-to-reach windows while an adult follows with a clean cloth.

■ New, soft paintbrush. Lightly brush off dust from pleated lampshades.

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning series "Donna's Day" is airing on public television nationwide. To find more of her creative family recipes and activities, visit www.donnasday.com and link to the NEW Donna's Day Facebook fan page. Her latest book is "Donna Erickson's Fabulous Funstuff for Families."

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Life & Style

'Virtually Raising the Titanic': New 3-D images

NORFOLK, Va. (AP)—Scientists showed some never-before-seen images of the Titanic in a Virginia courtroom Thursday, unveiling dramatic three-dimensional views of the rusting hulk and the ghostly images of the sea floor where the ship sank almost a century ago.

The Titanic struck ice while making its maiden voyage on April 12, 1912, about 400 miles off Newfoundland, Canada. More than 1,500 of the 2,228 passengers and crew perished as the liner plunged into the deep. The images taken from a remote-controlled submersible vehicle were shown to a judge Thursday amid an ongoing salvage claim involving the world's most famous shipwreck.

Scientists who took part in a 2010 expedition to the North Atlantic wreck site said the images are the most extensive and highest quality ever taken of the Titanic. The expedition also fully mapped the 3-by-5-mile wreck site, which is located 2 1/2 miles below the ocean's surface. The experts said the entire debris field has now been documented for the first time.

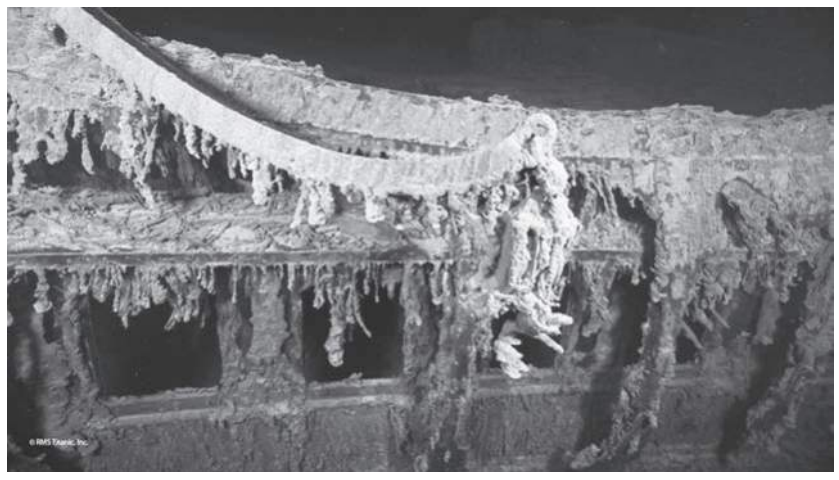
The new images will ultimately be assembled for public viewing, scientists said, and to help oceanographers and archaeologists explain the ship's violent descent to the ocean bottom. It is also intended to provide answers on the state of the wreck, which scientists say is showing increasing signs of deterioration.

The findings were presented in a federal courtroom in Norfolk where a salvage claim is still being decided 26 years after the Titanic was discovered by oceanographer Robert Ballard.

The most striking images involved the 3-D tour of the Titanic's stern, which lies 2,000 feet from the bow. Attorneys and court visitors donned 3-D glasses as a camera in a remote-controlled submersible vehicle skimmed over the stern, seemingly transporting viewers through scenes of jagged rusticles sprouting from deck, a length of chain, the captain's bathtub, and wooden elements that scientists had previously believed had disappeared in the harsh, deep ocean environment.

The images were gathered last year using submersibles that were either tethered to a research vessel or programed to skim the ocean floor—"mowing the lawn," in the words of one scientist.

The scientists said previous sonar and optical images were random and akin to snapshots, while the expedition strived to record and map every inch of the wreck and its resting place using the latest recording technologies. Individual images are stitched together in a mosaic process to create large-scale, almost panoramic views of the wreck.



AP

This photo August 2010 provided by RMS Titanic Inc., shows CThe last davit remaining on the wreck of RMS Titanic.

"We have an image of everything. That's what's important," said William N. Lange of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Massachusetts. "This has never been done before in the deep sea."

The cameras did not probe the interior of the wreck.

The 2010 expedition, which included many veterans of past Titanic expeditions, was organized by RMS Titanic Inc. The company has exclusive rights to salvage the Titanic, and has gathered nearly 6,000 objects from the once-opulent cruise ship. They are valued in excess of $110 million.

U.S. District Judge Rebecca Beach Smith ruled last year that RMS Titanic is entitled to full compensation for the Titanic trove, but has not determined how it will be paid. The hearing Thursday was intended, in part, to demonstrate the extraordinary costs to RMS Titanic of organizing the risky expeditions and salvage operations. The seas above the wreck are commonly raked by fierce storms, and the wreck site is pitch black and subject to powerful deep-ocean currents.

Chris Davino, president and CEO of Premier Exhibitions, RMS Titanic's parent, estimated the cost of the 2010 expedition at $4 million to $5 million. He said company officials have not decided whether they will launch another salvage expedition.

Scientists said the images collected by the expedition will someday be available to the public to explore the wreck, navigating the ocean depths as a teenager operates a video game with joy sticks.

Some of the individual images were startling in their detail and grandeur. Huge boilers and engines seemed frozen in time as they rose from the ocean bottom.

Since Ballard and an international team discovered the Titanic, most of the expeditions have either been to photograph the wreck or gather thousands of artifacts, like fine china, shoes and ship fittings. "Titanic" director James Cameron also has led teams to the wreck to record the bow and the stern.

RMS Titanic made the last expedition to site in 2004. The company conducts traveling displays of the Titanic artifacts, which the company says have been viewed by tens of millions of people worldwide.

Prince William, Kate charm Canada on royal visit

OTTAWA, Ontario (AP)—Prince William and Kate tried out their French in public and put on their best British charm for screaming Canadians as the royal newlyweds began their first official overseas trip Thursday.

Poised and confident, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, as they are formally known, thrilled the crowds with warm, unscripted gestures, wading into throngs of well-wishers to shake hands and accept flowers and other gifts.

AP

Prince William and wife Kate, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge are greeted as they arrive at Rideau Hall in Ottawa, Ontario, Thursday, June 30, 2011.

To cheers of delight, William addressed his hosts in both English and French, then cracked a joke about his language skills. "It will improve as we go on," the prince quipped, then noted how much he and Kate were "truly looking forward to this adventure."

"Catherine and I are so delighted to be here in Canada. Instilled in us by our parents and grandparents, who love this country, we have been looking forward to this moment for a very long time—and before we were married, we both had a longing to come here together," he said at the residence of the governor general of Canada.

"They are beautiful together, like a fairy tale," gushed 15-year-old Daphnee Dubouchet-Olshesh, who was in the crowd with her mother. "He just sounded so cute and adorable with his English accent. He did pretty good with his French."

Brenda Hoerle, who drove six and half hours from Waterloo, Ontario, with her two daughters, agreed.

"He did wonderfully. His candor was very appealing to the crowd. He joked about the fact that his French will improve. That's what we look to see of the monarchy, to see that they are normal human beings," she said.

Kate's French also got a thumbs-up. Mayor Marc Bureau of Gatineau, Quebec, said he greeted the couple in French and Kate replied in French that it was a pleasure.

"I think French classes have served her well," he said.

Arriving aboard a Canadian military plane, the couple were greeted by bright sunshine and stiff breezes along with dignitaries and cheering crowds of thousands.

The royal pair then headed straight to the National War Memorial, where they were met by Prime Minister Stephen Harper and his wife, Laureen. Each laid a wreath before stepping into the crowd to speak individually with veterans.

Stunning in tan stilettos and a figure-hugging navy scoop-backed dress with a lace overlay by Canadian designer Erdem Moralioglu, Kate was greeted with cheers of "We want Kate!" at every stop. William wore a blue suit with burgundy tie.

"I wanted to witness firsthand their chemistry," said 21-year-old Valerie Barrette, decked out in an evening gown and feather-decorated hat. "They are just so good looking."

Later, the couple attended a reception for young Canadians. It was billed as a celebration barbecue but it was brought inside due to rain.

They will stay in Canada for nine days, taking part in Canada Day celebrations Friday and opening the world-renowned Calgary Stampede, as well as handing out flags to newly minted Canadians at a citizenship ceremony.

During the visit, William will show his skills as a helicopter rescue pilot by taking part in a water landing demonstration, and the couple is scheduled to put on aprons and take part in a cooking workshop in Quebec City.

The prince and his wife have star power to burn, and Canadian Heritage Minister James Moore predicted this will be the most-watched royal tour in Canada's history.

Earlier in the week, Harper unveiled a personal flag for William's visit—the first to be created by Canada for a member of the royal family since 1962, when the queen adopted a personal flag for her own use in Canada.

Some anti-royal protests were expected in the French-speaking province of Quebec, with small groups planning protests in Quebec City and Montreal.

The prince and Kate jet to Los Angeles on July 8 and will host a gala dinner there the next night to introduce up-and-coming British film talent to Hollywood executives.

Monaco palace releases wedding guest list

MONACO (AP)—France's richest man, an African prince and a James Bond actor are among the glitterati converging on Monaco this week for the much-anticipated nuptials between Prince Albert II and former South African Olympic swimmer Charlene Wittstock.

It's the first wedding of a reigning prince in the tiny Riviera principality since Philadelphia-born Hollywood icon Grace Kelly walked down the aisle with Albert's late father, Prince Rainier, more than 50 years ago.

The festivities kicked off Thursday night with a concert by The Eagles. The prince and Wittstock attended the free show, which was held at Monaco's stadium and attracted thousands of fans from the principality and neighboring areas.

"The music is nice but it's kind of beside the point," said Fatima Aherdane, a 27-year-old call center manager who grew up in Monaco. "We're just so happy that the prince is finally getting married, they could be playing whatever."

Though Albert is in his fifties and has acknowledged fathering two children out of wedlock, this is his first trip down the aisle. His long-time confirmed bachelor status once worried many in Monaco, which is known worldwide for its glamorous monarchy, its lax tax laws and high-flying casinos.

The palace long kept the guest list for the two-day-long festivities Friday and Saturday under wraps, presumably for security reasons, but on Thursday released brief biographies of the celebrity guests.

Top names included Sir Roger Moore, who played British spy 007 in the 1970s and '80s, Chanel designer Karl Lagerfeld, U.S. soprano Renee Fleming, and Bernard Arnault, the CEO of luxury giant LVMH—and the wealthiest man in France.

Italian designers Roberto Cavalli, whose yacht often plies the waters off the Cote d'Azur, and Giorgio Armani, the man behind Wittstock's wedding dress, and a smattering of supermodels including Naomi Campbell and Karolina Kurkova are also expected.

Rumor had it that members of the royal houses of Spain and Sweden would come, but their names were not on Thursday's list. His Majesty Leruo Molotlegi of the Kingdom of Bakofeng in South Africa is—as is the former president of El Salvador.

A host of athletes are also expected, including swimmers, distance runners, race car drivers and tennis and rugby players. Romanian gymnast Nadia Comenici, who captivated the world by winning three gold medals at the 1976 summer Olympic Games, will attend.

Wittstock was born in Zimbabwe, but moved to neighboring South Africa as a child. She swam for South Africa at the Sydney Olympics in 2000. Albert has been an International Olympic Committee member since 1985 and competed in five Winter Olympics as part of Monaco's bobsled team.

Albert met Wittstock during a 2000 swimming competition in Monaco. Wittstock then began appearing regularly at social events and moved to Monaco in 2006.

Friday's civil ceremony and Saturday's religious ceremony will be held in the palace, a Renaissance palazzo that's been home to Monaco's ruling Grimaldi dynasty for centuries.

Tracy Morgan's latest jokes offend the disabled

NEW YORK (AP)—Tracy Morgan had just finished apologizing for his anti-gay jokes, and now the comedian is in hot water again.

In his standup act in New York last weekend, Morgan mocked the mentally disabled, according to The New York Times. This has led to a demand for an apology from the "30 Rock" star by a group promoting the rights of the mentally and physically disabled.

Morgan's wisecracks reportedly included a warning not to "mess with women who have retarded kids."

His remarks are "far too offensive to be excused as comedy," Peter Berns, head of The Arc, said earlier this week. He called for an immediate apology.

Thus far, Morgan has offered no response.

Earlier this month, he apologized for a homophobic rant made during a stand-up routine in Nashville.

Maguire: No wrongdoing in Hollywood poker matches

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Tobey Maguire didn't just win more than $300,000 during poker matches against a man convicted of running a Ponzi scheme, the actor's attorney notes in court filings that he also lost $168,500 to the convicted con man.

Maguire's attorney denied the actor did anything wrong by playing in the Texas Hold 'Em matches held at upscale Beverly Hills hotels and private residences and shouldn't be required to turn over any of his winnings to Ponzi investors, court filings released Thursday state. But attorney Robert Barta argues that if a bankruptcy court rules that the "Spider-Man" star has to turn over any of his winnings, he should be credited for the nearly $170,000 he lost to Bradley Ruderman.

Maguire

The actor and 21 others, including several celebrities, were sued in March by a bankruptcy trustee hoping to recoup more than $4 million in Ruderman's gambling losses during the poker games, which the lawsuits claim were unlicensed. The winners, including Maguire and actor-director Nick Cassavetes, have no right to keep their winnings, the trustee's lawsuits claim.

"It's my belief that the games under California law were illegal because they were being hosted for money," trustee Howard Ehrenberg said in an interview last week.

Maguire's response denies that they were "controlled games" or that a woman accused of coordinating the tournaments was also responsible for making sure winners were paid.

Cassavetes' attorney has also denied wrongdoing. Attorney Ronald Richards said last week he is hoping to either resolve the case for a lesser amount than the $73,000 that "The Notebook" director won at a 2007 game, or he will fight the case.

Ruderman paid many of his losses during the games with checks, which allowed Ehrenberg to trace the payments and attempt to seize them to repay the Ponzi investors.

Elijah Wood loves 'total madness' of new TV show

In this Friday, June 24, 2011 photo, Elijah Wood poses for a portrait in New York. Wood stars in the new FX series "Wilfred."

AP

NEW YORK (AP)—Elijah Wood's latest acting gig is ridiculous, and he's OK with that.

The actor stars in the new FX show "Wilfred," playing a depressed guy named Ryan who is on the verge of suicide. He finds a new zest for life while hanging out with his neighbor's dog Wilfred, except this dog is quite different.

As Ryan sees it, Wilfred is a talking man in a dog suit who also smokes cigarettes.

"There were days where there would just be absurd situations that my character and Wilfred would get into and you'd step out of that and thing `what are we doing? What total madness are we creating?" Wood said. "And there was a gleefulness associated with it like wow, this is really bizarre and wonderful and it was a joy. So much fun."

The show, based on a hit comedy in Australia, had 2.6 million viewers when it premiered June 23. That's the best ratings FX has ever had for a comedy.

Wood says over the course of the season the character of a stuffed bear that Wilfred is drawn to will be developed.

"There's an interesting parallel because Ryan is the only one to see Wilfred as a man in a dog suit and Wilfred refers to this bear as having its own personality as well, but we never see bear move or talk. It's very weird."

In October, Wood heads to New Zealand to resume the role of Frodo Baggins from "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy in "The Hobbit," directed by Peter Jackson. Wood says he's "really excited" about it and compares it to a family reunion.

"It's not often in your life that you get to revisit such a significant time in your life," Wood said.

New Zealand is also where Wood started DJing for fun. An avid music lover, Wood even gets hired to do it.

"I brought down like 4 Case Logics full of CD's because I was there for so long. We DJ'd a couple of parties and Dom (Monaghan) and I DJ'd together and we'd played at bars and I was just playing songs. ... Now I'm doing it more frequently and being asked to DJ."

"Wilfred" airs Thursdays at 10pm on FX.

MSNBC suspends analyst for remark on Obama

NEW YORK (AP)—MSNBC suspended political analyst Mark Halperin for an off-color remark about President Barack Obama on "Morning Joe" Thursday.

"I thought he was a dick yesterday," Halperin said on Thursday's show during a discussion about Obama's news conference the day before.

Halperin, a Time magazine editor at large, quickly apologized on the air and in a statement. MSNBC suspended him indefinitely and Halperin said he believed the action was appropriate.

Halperin had prefaced his remark by asking, "Are we on the seven-second delay?" and said after that "I hope it worked."

It didn't.

The reference was to a brief delay in a TV show transmission that gives a producer the chance to quickly silence an offending remark before it goes out over the air. MSNBC said "Morning Joe" had the delay, but a producer pushed a wrong button and Halperin's statement wasn't edited out.

Halperin

MSNBC said Halperin's comment was "completely inappropriate and unacceptable" and apologized to the president.

"I want to offer a heartfelt and profound apology to the president, to my MSNBC colleagues, and to the viewers," Halperin said. "My remark was unacceptable, and I deeply regret it."

White House spokesman Jay Carney, a former Time magazine bureau chief in Washington, said Halperin's comment was an inappropriate thing to say about any president, and that he had expressed this sentiment to network executives.

Carney had no comment on MSNBC's decision to suspend Halperin.

Time magazine spokesman Daniel Kile said the company had told Halperin his behavior was unacceptable.

'The Voice' bringing back its 4 coaches next year

NEW YORK (AP)—NBC says the four musician-coaches who have helped make "The Voice" a summer hit will be back for the next round of the vocal competition.

NBC said Thursday that Christina Aguilera (ag-wuh-LEHR'-uh), Cee Lo Green, Adam Levine and Blake Shelton will all return when "The Voice" resumes in midseason next year.

The series concluded its first cycle on Wednesday. It features these musician-coaches (don't call them judges) working with the vocalists throughout the competition.

A major success for NBC, "The Voice" ranked in third and fifth place in viewers last week.

Non-drinker doesn't want a party-pooper reputation

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 22-year-old senior in college. Much of college social life revolves around alcohol. I have no problem drinking responsibly, but I take medication that prohibits me from imbibing alcohol.

Strangers and friends often ask, "Why aren't you drinking?" They either assume it's for religious reasons or I'm uptight. Saying I'm on meds seems like a bit of a buzz-kill.

This is particularly troublesome when I'm invited "out for drinks" at a bar. I never know what to order or say. I hate feeling like I'm obligated to drink, but I don't want to pass on events because of the awkward questions.

What's a quick reply I can give to those who ask why I don't drink? And how can I go out for drinks without actually drinking?

STILL SOCIABLE AT STANFORD

DEAR STILL SOCIABLE: Order a "virgin" whatever you're being offered. There are many reasons why people don't drink. Among them: They don't like the taste, they don't like the buzz, the empty calories, they're allergic, they don't want to risk a traffic violation with alcohol in their system, or they never started drinking in the first place. To imbibe or not is a personal choice. It's OK to be different. And if you're challenged, it's perfectly fine to just say, "No thanks!"

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: We live in a very nice neighborhood frequented by walkers and runners. For the second time in just a few months, several women who regularly walk past our home have approached me at neighborhood events to ask about items I can only think were found in our recycling bin. Specifically, how did I like a particular brand of pasta sauce, or would I recommend that bottle of chardonnay?

Abby, our recycling bins have lids and our bin is never left open, which means these women must be peeking inside to check out our eating and drinking habits. I am now so self-conscious about our recycling I have begun burying bottles and cans under the newspaper and watching the bin to catch them in the act. My husband suggested leaving a nasty note on top of our recyclables. Any suggestions?

FOR OUR EYES ONLY IN MILWAUKEE

DEAR EYES ONLY: Once garbage is put out for collection it is no longer private property. A certain celebrity was embarrassed to learn this firsthand when some paparazzi rooted through her garbage and discovered to their glee some empty containers of meds to treat a private health matter.

It's possible the walkers are just trying to be friendly and strike up a conversation. But if your suspicions are correct, there are several ways to handle the situation. The first would be to delay putting out your recyclables until just before they are to be collected. Another would be to visit a novelty shop and pick up some fake hands or feet—or a large rubber rat—and place . them strategically in one of your bins. Or, affix "sweet" Post-It notes to your jars and bottles reading, "This was great!" or, "Don't waste your money ..."

If that doesn't discourage them from inventorying your trash, then there's always the direct approach. Respond with, "Why do you ask?" And when they tell you, let them know how you feel about their answer.

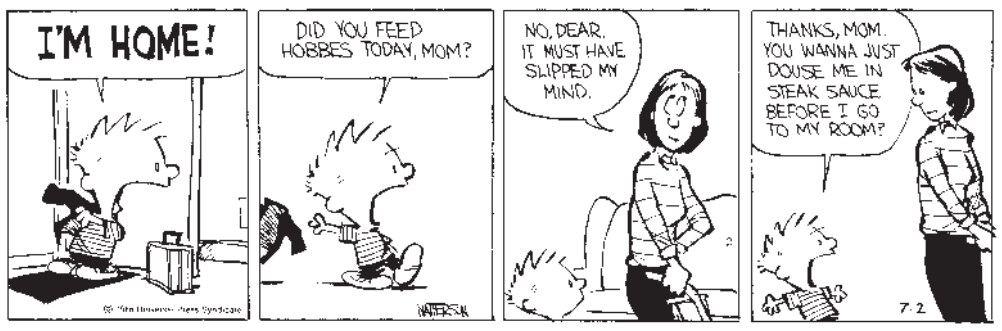
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

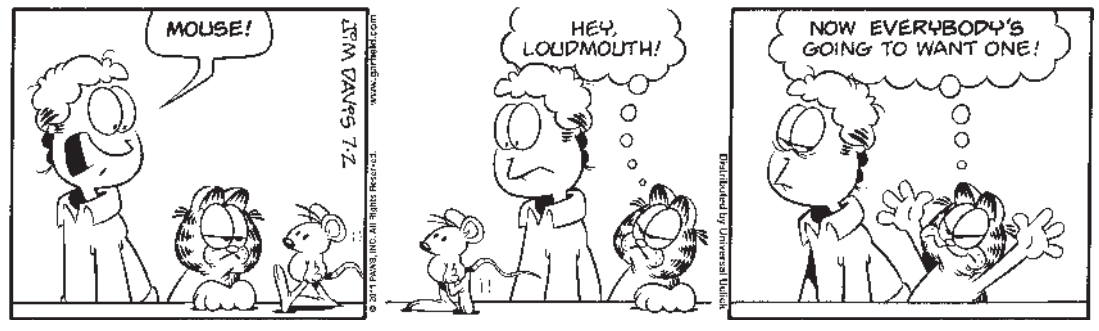
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


I'M HOME!
DID YOU FEED HOBBES TODAY, MOM?
NO, DEAR. IT MUST HAVE SLIPPED MY MIND.
THANKS, MOM. YOU WANNA JUST DOUSE ME IN STEAK SAUCE BEFORE I GO TO MY ROOM?
7-2

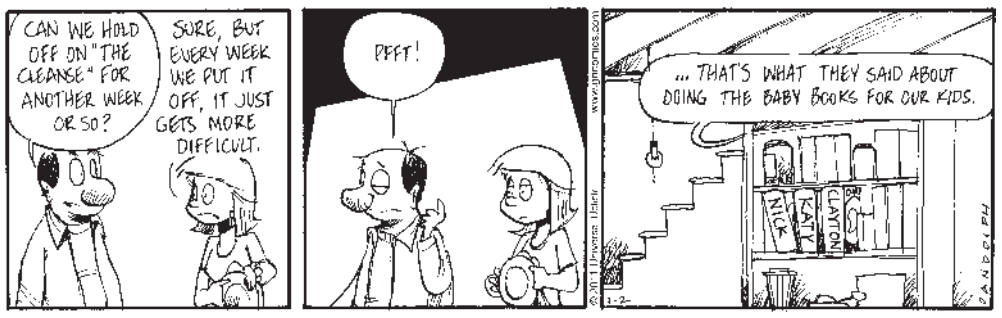
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



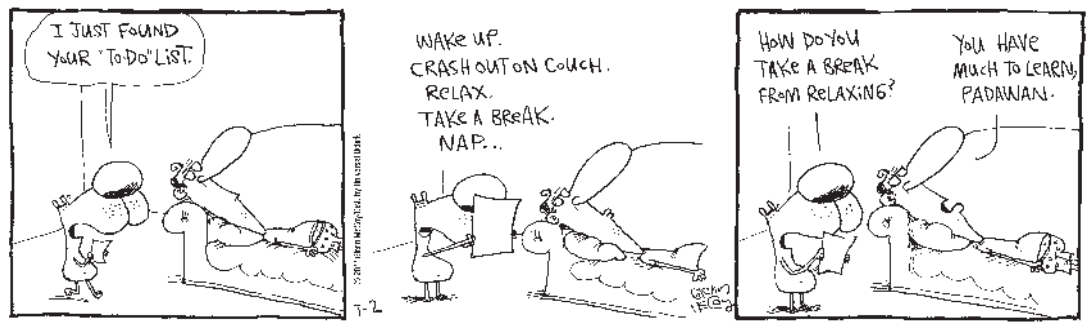
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


CAN WE HOLD OFF ON "THE CLEANSE" FOR ANOTHER WEEK OR SO?
SURE, BUT EVERY WEEK WE PUT IT OFF, IT JUST GETS MORE DIFFICULT.
PFFT!
... THAT'S WHAT THEY SAID ABOUT DOING THE BABY BOOKS FOR OUR KIDS.
NICK
KATY
CLAYTON
7-2

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


I JUST FOUND YOUR "TO-DO" LIST.
WAKE UP. CRASH OUT ON COUCH. RELAX. TAKE A BREAK. NAP...
HOW DO YOU TAKE A BREAK FROM RELAXING?
YOU HAVE MUCH TO LEARN, PADAWAN.
7-2

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Low-pH chemical
5 Create
9 A mere handful
12 Rani's wrap
13 Has bills
14 Carte lead-in
15 Paid players
16 Unfavorable votes
17 Pitch
18 Transmitted
19 Swindle
20 Door ding
21 Kanga's kid
23 Parisian pal
25 Day spa treatment
28 One of Santa's team
32 "Oh, woe!"
33 Put on the line
34 Improved
36 — around (played boisterously)
37 Compass dir.
38 — jiffy
39 Lummox
42 Scoundrel
44 Crony
48 Scenery chewer
49 Needle case
50 Actress Spelling
51 Submachine gun
52 "— Free"
53 Right on the map?
54 Obtain
55 Boast
56 "Phooey!"

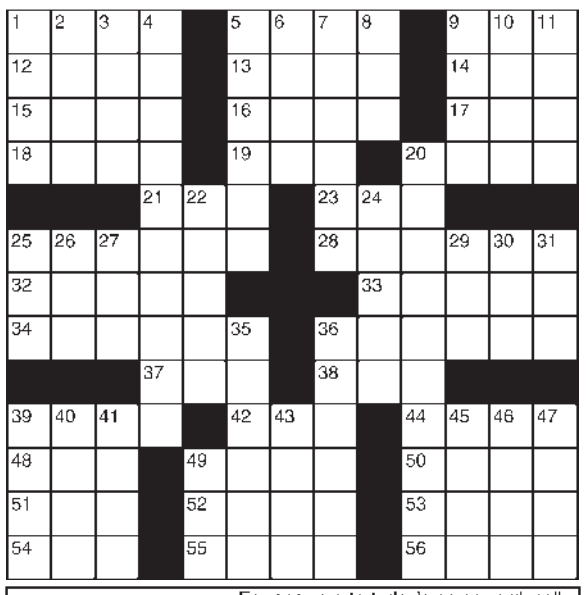
DOWN

1 Venomous vipers
2 Give a hoot
3 Press agent?
4 Divided into political boundaries
5 Genghis Khan, e.g.
6 Vacationing
7 Calculator feature
8 Curvy character
9 Kismet
10 Panache
11 Imperfection
20 Not duly attentive
22 "The Old — Bucket"
24 Gardner lawyer
25 "Terrif!"
26 Hearty brew
27 Garfield, e.g.
29 Owns
30 — out a living
31 Roulette bet
35 Parish head
36 Seclusion
39 Locomotive noise
40 Lounge about
41 Leave out
43 Emanation
45 Frost
46 — Major
47 Politico Romney
49 Recede

Solution time: 27 mins.

O	A	F	■	I	B	I	S	■	B	O	I	L
F	I	R	■	N	O	L	O	■	U	L	N	A
F	R	E	E	F	A	L	L	■	Z	I	O	N
■	■	E	R	R	S	■	■	O	Z	O	N	E
T	I	B	I	A	■	R	O	B	E	■	■	■
O	B	O	E	■	P	O	W	E	R	F	U	L
N	E	O	■	B	U	L	L	Y	■	R	N	A
E	X	T	R	E	M	E	S	■	L	E	I	S
■	■	■	A	L	P	S	■	T	E	E	T	H
F	L	I	R	T	■	■	M	E	E	T	■	■
L	O	D	E	■	F	R	E	E	K	I	C	K
A	B	E	L	■	B	O	N	N	■	M	O	I
P	O	S	Y	■	I	N	D	Y	■	E	O	N

Yesterday's answer 7-2



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99c per minute. touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Lindsay Lohan, 25; Ashley Tisdale, 26; Larry David, 64; Richard Petty, 74

Happy Birthday: Don't overreact when what's required is a steady pace toward your goals. Mixing and mingling with people who have similar agendas will enable you to go far beyond your expectations. Taking a new or different approach will bring better results. Don't be afraid to show your emotions; it will attract positive attention. Your numbers are 2, 10, 17, 23, 26, 32, 45

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Keep a close eye on your valuables. Take care of any pressing domestic responsibilities you have to friends and family members. Once you have cleared your to-do list, you can focus on socializing with the people you enjoy being with most. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Talk to the experts and try new things. It's important to expand your knowledge and stay current with trends and technology if you want to remain marketable. Don't fight what's coming, when embracing the future is the way to go. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): The emotional intensity that others bring to the table may be unnerving if you aren't prepared to walk away or deal with the past in order to move forward. Change is upon you. Accept the inevitable. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Avoid emotional situations that encourage arguments and disrupt your plans. Take an innovative approach and you will impress someone you can learn from. Think and respond in a practical and timely manner. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You have some fabulous ideas that you must share with people who can contribute. An opportunity to incorporate something you have to offer with a group or company you have been involved with will transpire into a prosperous venture. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Take action but don't put up with anyone trying to take something away from you or blaming you for something you didn't do. Opportunity is apparent but so is jealousy. You will come up with the best solution, so follow your own ideas. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Follow your heart and your intuition when it comes to love and friendships. Travel plans should be made but stick to destinations that can help you out professionally. Mixing business with pleasure can bring interesting results with greater possibilities. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Put your emotions on the back burner and you will find it much easier to make a personal decision. Creating an interesting space at home will inspire and motivate you to follow through with a project you left unfinished. Updates to your technology will make your plans possible. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Put more into your home, your investments and your future. There is money to be made if you maintain assets and upgrade whatever you have that can contribute to your overall worth. A change to your current situation at home will be beneficial. ✪✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't shove or you will meet with an equal and opposite reaction from someone you least expect. Use diplomacy. Busy yourself with home improvement or family projects that will enhance your relationships as well as your residence. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Getting to know someone better or making a commitment to someone who can contribute to your world and make your life better will manifest through a social encounter. Love is highlighted but don't overspend trying to impress someone. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Honesty will be required if you want to make progress. Help is available but only if you are prepared to admit your mistakes and make amends with someone you need in your corner. Don't let a poor relationship with someone hold you back. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are versatile, playful and have a thirst for knowledge and discovery. You are inventive and welcome a challenge.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

4		5				6		1
6				4				3
			6		2			
		2				7		
			1		7			
		8				3		
			3		1			
5				2				9
7		3				5		4

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 7/02

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	4	7	9	3	2	5	1	6
2	6	9	8	1	5	3	4	7
5	1	3	4	6	7	9	8	2
9	7	8	6	4	3	2	5	1
4	5	2	7	9	1	6	3	8
1	3	6	5	2	8	7	9	4
7	2	5	3	8	4	1	6	9
6	8	1	2	5	9	4	7	3
3	9	4	1	7	6	8	2	5

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 7/01

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

THE GENEVA CONVENTION **Solution: 9 letters**

P	S	N	O	I	T	A	V	R	E	S	E	R	A	C
R	R	E	P	R	I	S	A	L	S	T	E	R	M	S
O	E	S	T	A	B	L	I	S	H	M	E	N	T	L
V	N	L	S	T	N	E	M	D	N	E	M	A	N	A
I	O	I	I	E	R	A	C	E	X	N	N	G	E	N
S	S	A	Ⓟ	E	C	Y	G	P	U	D	O	T	M	O
I	I	T	Ⓐ	D	F	N	A	R	A	V	N	V	E	I
O	R	E	Ⓒ	I	O	N	E	R	E	E	T	A	C	T
N	P	D	Ⓣ	I	S	M	D	R	M	E	I	L	R	A
S	P	A	N	I	B	S	N	T	E	L	M	U	O	N
O	R	I	O	E	R	M	I	M	K	F	M	E	F	R
A	P	N	R	E	E	M	I	R	C	C	N	S	N	E
O	C	G	W	N	M	S	E	U	S	S	I	O	E	T
P	R	O	T	O	C	O	L	I	M	I	T	S	C	N
Y	P	S	C	S	L	A	U	D	I	V	I	D	N	I

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Agreement, Amendments, Cares, Commitment, Conference, Crime, Details, Enforcement, Establishment, Expansion, Governments, Individuals, International, Issues, Limits, Meet, Nuremberg, Opinion, Pact, Powers, Prisoners, Protocol, Provisions, Race, Ratify, Relief, Reprisals, Reservations, Sick, Standards, Terms, Values

Yesterday's Answer: Quebec

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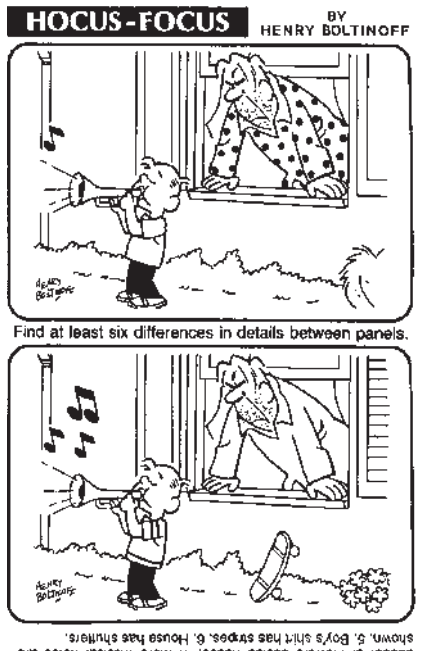
HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

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Differences: 1. Pajamas are solid. 2. Skateboard has been added. 3. Flowers beside house. 4. More musical notes are shown. 5. Boy's shirt has stripes. 6. House has shutters.

Wishing Well®

5	8	3	8	5	2	6	7	4	5	6	7	2
C	A	E	G	O	Y	C	E	E	M	O	V	O
3	4	3	8	4	3	5	8	4	7	6	3	8
X	N	P	O	D	R	F	O	L	E	R	E	D
2	5	2	6	2	6	2	4	6	8	6	4	3
U	O	W	R	I	E	N	E	C	S	T	S	S
2	6	2	5	6	8	6	5	4	2	7	6	7
B	M	A	R	I	T	S	T	S	T	N	T	T
5	2	3	2	5	4	2	6	8	3	7	3	5
A	T	S	L	S	S	E	A	A	I	F	V	S
6	8	5	3	7	3	5	6	4	3	7	6	7
K	R	U	E	U	L	R	E	U	O	L	S	W
4	5	4	5	8	4	3	7	4	7	4	3	7
C	E	C	D	T	E	V	E	S	E	S	E	K

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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Super Crossword

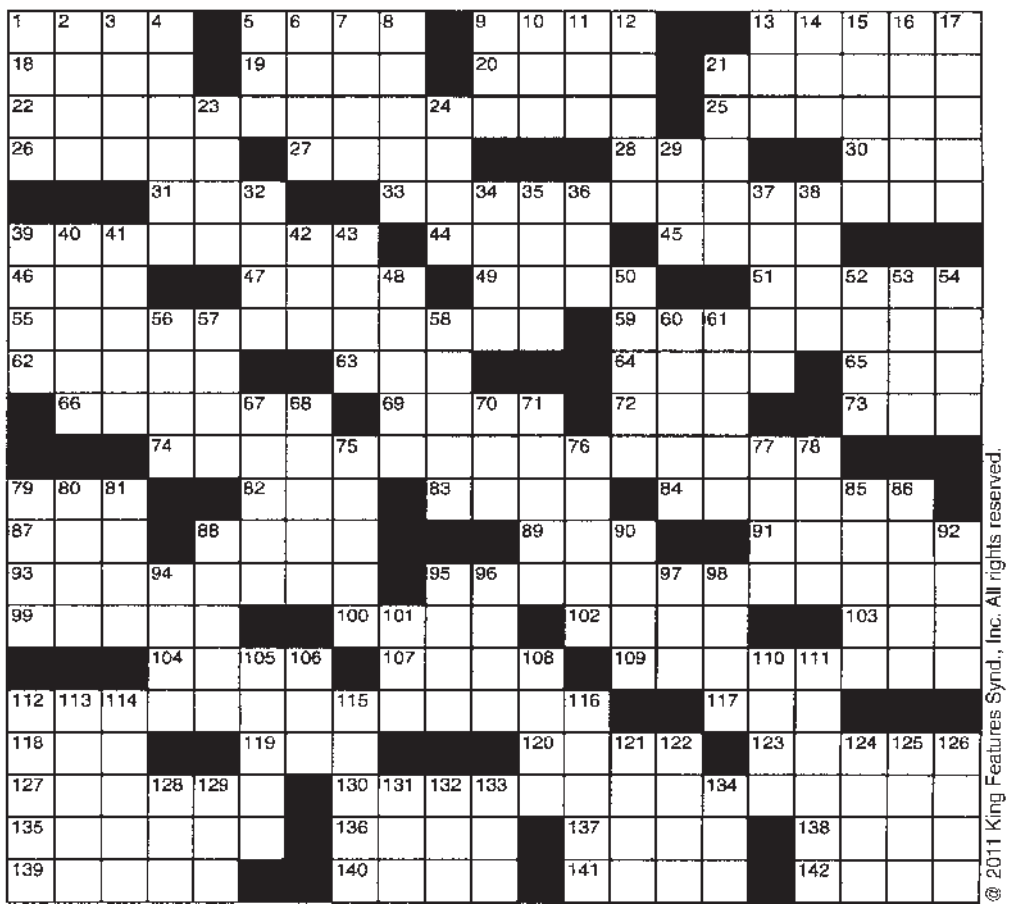
TOWNSPEOPLE

ACROSS

1 Beauty spot
5 Relative of PDQ
9 Wattle's partner
13 Grating
18 Schipa solo
19 Actor O'Shea
20 One of "The Three Sisters"
21 Kind of roof
22 Pianist from Maine?
25 Pearl harbor?
26 Assert
27 Lascivious look
28 Leather-worker's tool
30 — -Cat (winter wheels)
31 Cover
33 Talk-show host from Colorado?
39 Nineveh native
44 Tibia
45 Miami's county
46 Railroad dep.
47 — rug
49 Verve
51 Kim of "True Grit"
55 Singer from Arkansas?
59 Hamlet's home
62 "There's — Out Tonight" ('61 hit)
63 Smidgen
64 "Heaven's —" ('80 film)
65 Distress
66 Philosopher Blaise
69 Deadly septet
72 Antipollution grp.
73 Sports-caster Allen
74 Actress from Alabama?
79 "Pshaw!"
82 Lennon's lady
83 Trifling
84 Pencil production
87 Orthodontists' org.
88 Helicopter sound
89 Link letters?
91 Western lake
93 Friday's rank
95 Pitcher from Ohio?
99 Crow's toe
100 Sign of sainthood
102 Parent
103 Sundial numeral
104 Eliot's "— Bede"
107 Emulates Simon
109 Lost one's balance
112 Drummer from Virginia?
117 Finished first
118 Mary of "Sons and Lovers"
119 Start to cry?
120 Provokes
123 Specks
127 Theater district
130 Actor from Pennsylvania?
135 Poet Sidney
136 Depend (on)
137 What have you
138 Anita Loos comedy
139 Satin quality
140 Wagon part
141 Say it isn't so
142 RN's workplace

DOWN

1 Cohn or Connelly
2 Spoken
3 Tenor Luis
4 Far and away
5 Brenneman or Linker
6 Doorway part
7 Opposite of aweather
8 Might
9 John — Passos
10 Cockpit fig.
11 Actor Tognazzi
12 Trite
13 Flicka's food
14 Jarreau and Jolson
15 Role for Dustin
16 Pool person
17 Biblical tyrant
21 Lively dance
23 Kuwaiti kingpin
24 Author Murdoch
29 Cotton clump
32 Anthropologist Fossey
34 "The Way of Love" singer
35 Metric measure
36 — bind
37 Rocker Van Halen
38 Estrange
39 Hammett hound
40 "The Bristol —" ('61 hit)
41 Apia's locale
42 Exist
43 Tree house?
48 Embarrass
50 Mideastern desert
52 ". . . where the buffalo —"
53 Cheese-board choice
54 Roar
56 Actor Mostel
57 Formerly
58 Abhorrence
60 — lazuli
61 Celery serving
67 Hilo hello
68 Russian revolutionary
70 Vane dir.
71 Get sidetracked
75 Jay of "Dennis the Menace"
76 Murcia mister
77 "Why don't we?"
78 "L'—, c'est moi"
79 Express
80 Notion
81 Hindman or Holliman
85 Cathedral feature
86 Comedian Mandel
88 Darling child
90 Chad and Jeremy song, e.g.
92 "Idylls of the King" character
94 Stimulus
95 Burrowing critter
96 Jerky toy?
97 Angus' uh-uh
98 Expanded
101 Hibachi residue
105 Shady spot
106 "O Sole —"
108 Cut a cuticle
110 Taj Mahal, for one
111 TV's "Eight Is —"
112 Knots
113 Bathsheba's first husband
114 Patriot Silas
115 Mongoose foe
116 Like a prune
121 Kitchen addition
122 Loony Laurel
124 Banana-rama, e.g.
125 Souffle ingredients
126 Freighter or ferry
128 Taradiddle
129 Decimal base
131 King's handle?
132 Herriot title start
133 Salon supply
134 Furtive



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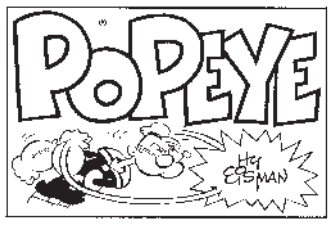
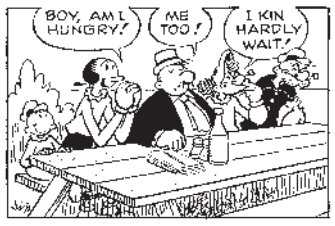
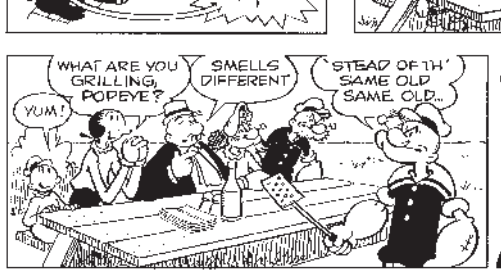
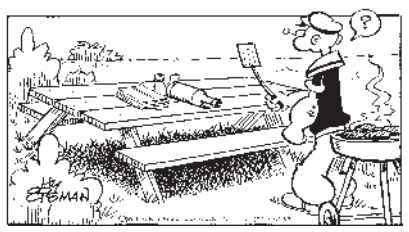






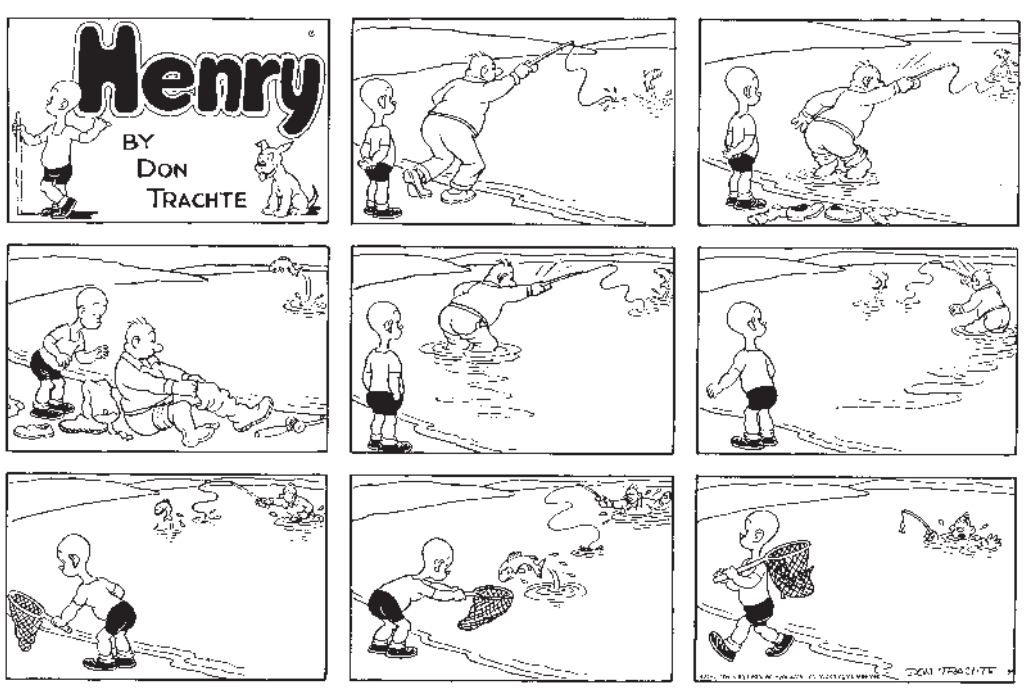


They'll Do It Every Time

by Al Scaduto

THE LIVING (BUT BARELY) TESTIMONIAL TO THE MEDICINE MAN—
YEAH, LASTLEGS···GLAD TO SEE YOU BACK·· I KNOW WHAT YOU WENT THROUGH···I HAD A TOUCH OF IT MYSELF A WHILE AGO···
YOU DID? WELL, SEE MY DOCTOR··· HE'S THE BEST THERE IS·DOCTOR HACKSAW··I'VE USED HIM FOR YEARS·· I'LL CALL HIM AND MAKE AN APPOINTMENT FOR YOU, OH, YAS···
IF LASTLEGS IS BETTER NOW··HOW DID HE LOOK BEFORE THE WITCH DOCTOR WORKED ON HIM?
Thanx to D.McMILLIAN, NEW YORK, N.Y.

NEVER FAILS DEPT— THE SPRINKLER'S BEEN ON ALL DAY··· THEN, AS YOU ROUND UP THE HOSES··· YUP! A DELUGE!
OH, PAPA! WHAT YOU SAID!
Thanx to S. RUBIN, CLEVELAND, OHIO
LIKE IT IS···ARFO PLAYS GOLF TO GET AWAY FROM THE JOB AND RELAX, SAYS HE· BUT—
"AN' I WALKED INTO THE BOSS'S OFFICE AND SAID EITHER I GET A RAISE OR···AN' HE SAID··AND I SAID··ETC. ETC.·· C'MON! MISS THAT ROUGH, YOU—@%&*!!#6?!!
Thanx to 'DYNAMITE' DON, BOSTON, MASS.



Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. GEOGRAPHY: What place is known as Kalaalit Nunaat in the local language?
2. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What university's nickname is the Rainbow Warriors?
3. ASTRONOMY: How many moons does Venus have?
4. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a hare's top ground speed?
5. POP CULTURE: What was the name of the Pillsbury Dough Girl?
6. LITERATURE: What was Tarzan's real name?
7. MYTHOLOGY: Who was Odysseus' wife?
8. MUSIC: Until his death, Kurt Cobain was the lead singer of which cutting-edge band?
9. ECONOMICS: Who wrote the influential book "Wealth of Nations"?
10. MEASUREMENTS: What does a "stere" measure?

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Answers

1. Greenland
2. Hawaii
3. None
4. About 43 mph
5. Popple
6. Lord Greystoke
7. Penelope
8. Nirvana
9. Adam Smith
10. Volume

Saturday's Answers

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:

- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/ 24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/ students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Night-time security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Night-time security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

---

1 br. furnished apt. near MHS with AC in a quiet area off Texas Rd. 24hrs water & own washing machine, ceiling fans in all rooms. $375, water included. Call Ed 788-6268.

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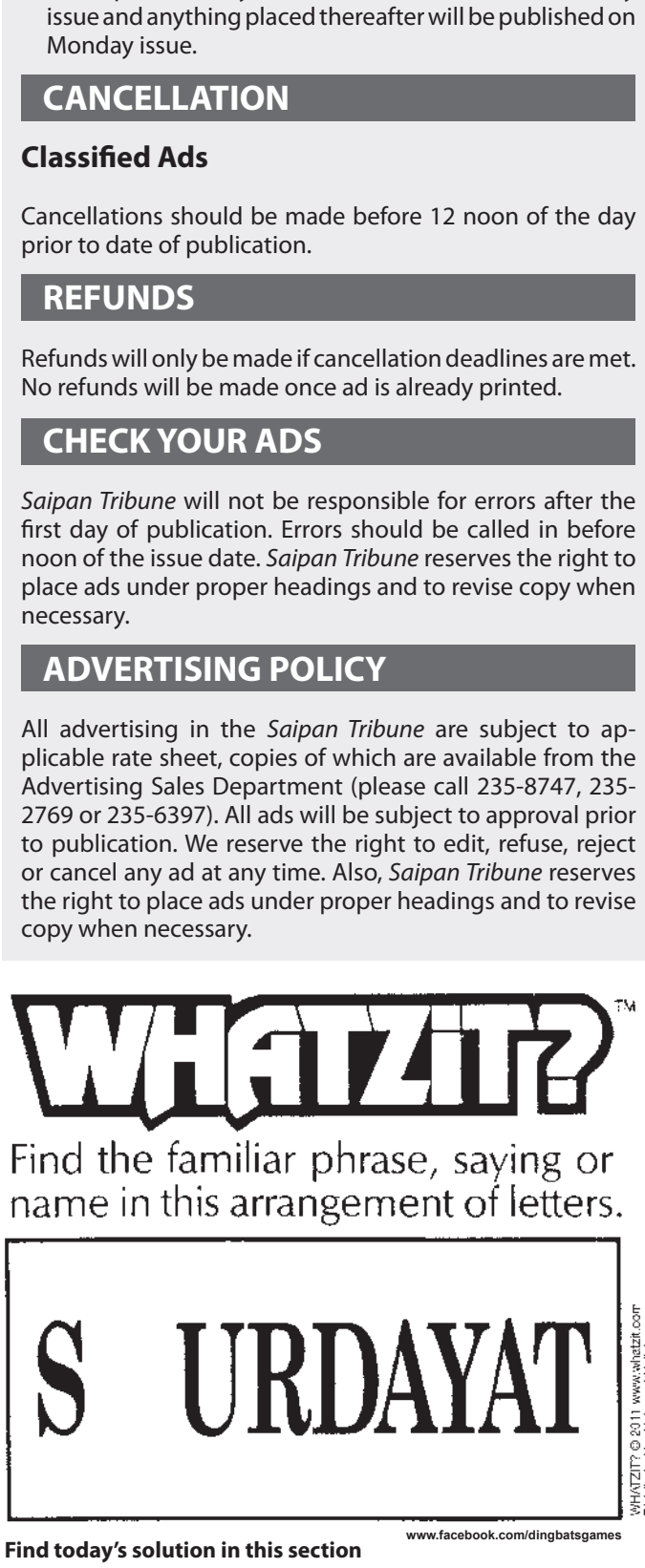
2005 Toyota Matrix; Color: Red; Mileage: 95,800; Excellent Condition! Sale Price: $6,500.
2008 Hyundai Tucson; Color: Green; Mileage: 45,000; Excellent Condition! Sale Price: $11,200.
Interested, Call: 287-7676

FOR SALE

Construction corporation with good records and a well known restaurant business for sale. For more information please call 483-1123.

WHATZIT Solution: At the end of the day

CLICK IT OR TICKET DAY & NIGHT


WHATZIT?
Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.
S URDAYAT
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Find today's solution in this section

Sharapova reaches first final since '04

WIMBLEDON, England (AP)—So what if Maria Sharapova managed to win only two of the first 13 points of her Wimbledon semifinal Thursday, dropping the first three games?

So what if she bungled her serve so badly that she double-faulted 13 times?

All that mattered to Sharapova was that she roared—well, shrieked—her way back into the match, taking 12 of the last 16 games to beat wild-card entry Sabine Lisicki of Germany 6-4, 6-3 and return to the final at the All England Club for the first time since 2004, when she won the title at 17.

"It's been many years, but it's a really great feeling," Sharapova said. "Today wasn't my best match of the championships, so I was real happy to get through in two sets. But, yeah, it's pretty amazing to be back on that stage."

In Saturday's final, Sharapova will play No. 8 Petra Kvitova of the Czech Republic, who hit nine aces and dictated points throughout her 6-1, 3-6, 6-2 victory over No. 4 Victoria Azarenka of Belarus.

Sharapova's seven-year gap between Wimbledon finals is the longest for a woman in the Open era, which began in 1968.

"I'm in a different stage in my career. I'm 24 years old. I have a lot of experience behind my back," said Sharapova, who hasn't lost a set during the tournament. "But I'm still playing tennis."

That wasn't always a given: Months after winning her third, and most recent, Grand Slam title at the 2008 Australian Open, Sharapova was sidelined with a serious injury to her right shoulder. When rehab wasn't enough, she had surgery in October 2008. It was an arduous road back, and only now has she returned to the top of the game.

"You're going to have certain doubts, I mean, when you go through something like that," the fifth-seeded Sharapova said, "knowing that not too many players have recovered fully."

Kvitova, who lost in last year's Wimbledon semifinals, is the first left-handed woman to reach a Grand Slam title match since Monica Seles at the 1998 French Open. She would be the first lefty to win the Wimbledon trophy since 1990, when Martina Navratilova—who was born in Czechoslovakia and was a spectator at Centre Court on Thursday—earned her ninth title.

"There's been so few women lefties that were good," Navratilova said. "For Petra, I think the key's always been to minimize those streaks of bad play. She's very streaky."

There's little question who the favorite is Saturday: Sharapova will be playing in her fifth major final; the 21-year-old Kvitova in her first. Sharapova seeks her 24th career title; Kvitova her fifth.

"Experience is an incredible asset," Sharapova said, "because you feel like you've been through many different situations."

In their only previous meeting, Sharapova beat Kvitova in straight sets on an indoor hard court at Memphis last year.

Then again, here's what Kvitova's coach, David Kotyza, took away from that: "Petra knows how to play against her."

As for whether Kvitova might be intimidated against Sharapova, Kotyza said: "I don't think so. No. She doesn't care who she plays."

In Thursday's opening semifinal, Kvitova wasn't distracted one bit by Azarenka's shot-accompanying screeching—which drew snickers from the crowd on the match's very first point—or the fire alarm that droned on for a couple of minutes in the fifth game.

Punctuating nearly every point she won with a yelp, Kvitova showed why she was honored as the WTA newcomer of the year in 2010. Still, she acknowledged afterward that, as recently as two weeks ago, "I didn't think, like, that I could win" the Wimbledon title.

Azarenka begged to differ.

"She can beat anybody, any day, because right now she has really good game," Azarenka said. "She's really going for it."

Indeed, Kvitova took the initiative, accumulating a 40-9 edge in winners. Her serve helped her get through some important moments: She hit three aces in the last game of the first set, and she dug out of a 15-40 hole while serving in the final set's fifth game, ending it with another ace.

AP

Russia's Maria Sharapova celebrates defeating Germany's Sabine Lisicki in their semifinal match at the All England Lawn Tennis Championships at Wimbledon, Thursday, June 30, 2011.

Sharapova was forced to tweak her service motion after her operation, and Thursday's match is only the latest evidence that there's still a problem. While losing in the French Open semifinals a month ago, she hit 10 double-faults, including on the final point. Against the 62nd-ranked Lisicki, Sharapova put in only 48 percent of her first serves.

There were two double-faults in Sharapova's first service game. Two more in her next gave Lisicki a break point, meaning Sharapova was one point from trailing 4-0.

This, then, would be where things turned. Sharapova hit a serve ruled out; she challenged the call, and the replay review showed the ball landed in. The next serve was good, and Lisicki wound up trying a drop shot—a tool she used to near-perfection in her quarterfinal victory over 2007 Wimbledon finalist Marion Bartoli—that sailed wide.

Eventually, Sharapova held serve there, and broke in the next game, and was on her way.

"The first three games she played very well, and I did quite the opposite. She served better, and I was giving her way too many free points on my serve," Sharapova said. "And then I told myself to take it one point at a time and really focus. I felt like I just kind of got in my zone."

Soon enough, she was marking shot after shot with her high-pitched grunts and celebrating point after point with her signature shouts of "Come on!" Up in the player guests' seats, her fiance, New Jersey Nets guard Sasha Vujacic, would raise a fist or clap and say, "Bravo!"

Sharapova closed the first set, oddly enough, with a 103 mph ace, threw her head back and screamed.

Fully in control, Sharapova raced to a 3-0 lead in the second set, as some drops of rain began to fall. Lisicki tried, without success, to talk the chair umpire into suspending play—it would take a half-hour or so to close the stadium's retractable roof.

Play continued, and Sharapova kept smacking groundstroke winners on the run, generally looking like someone ready to regain the championship.

"The next match starts from scratch," she cautioned. "Everything that kind of went before that doesn't really matter."

Aronimink feels more like US Open than US Open did

NEWTOWN SQUARE, Pa. (AP)—Pat Perez didn't make it to the U.S. Open this year. He felt as though he played in one Thursday at Aronimink in the AT&T National.

Despite the gorgeous conditions and only a mild breeze, only 13 of 78 players from the morning batch managed to break par in the first round. Dean Wilson, Joe Ogilvie, Jhonattan Vegas and Kyle Stanley were atop the leaderboard at 3-under 67.

Perez turned a bogey into a birdie by chipping in on the par-5 ninth and managed a 68. So difficult was the course that Perez said he had no complaints about his score. When told that only 13 players were under par, he didn't blink.

"Right on cue," Perez said. "This place is a month away from playing the U.S. Open. If they brought the fairways in, no joke this course is ready for a U.S. Open doing very little. Because if you hit it in the rough five or six times, you're dead."

That was the consensus of most players, and details of some of the rounds added more credence. Vegas managed to get around Aronimink without making a bogey. On the easiest of the two par 5s, Wilson figured he had squandered his chance until he flopped a shot out of the rough and it firmly struck the pin and dropped for eagle.

Ogilvie said the key to his round was a bogey on No. 10. From where he hit his tee shot, left into the deep grass and trees, he figured he would be lucky to make double bogey. Instead, he managed to get up-and-down from about 90 yards to limit the damage.

"I didn't do anything crazy on the greens. I just played them solid," Ogilvie said. "This course is set up like a U.S. Open. The fairways are a little bit wider, but it's definitely playing similar—except for this year's U.S. Open."

This year's U.S. Open didn't always resemble the toughest test in golf. In rain-softened conditions, Rory McIlroy blew away the field for an eight-shot victory, setting records along the way with the lowest 36-hole and 54-hole scores, and shattered the 72-hole record at 16-under 268.

By the afternoon, the best score anyone reached at Aronimink was 4 under, by Hunter Haas, who still had six holes to play.

Perez was joined at 68 by Justin Leonard, Bill Haas and Robert Garrigus, who tied for low American at the U.S. Open. Garrigus has four rounds under par at Congressional.

"Anything under par today is great," he said. "They changed a few of the greens, a little more severe around the edges, so you can hit a pretty good shot and not get rewarded. But you know where you can miss it. You know where you can't hit and you know where you can.

"I don't think double digits is going to win this week."

Vegas, the PGA Tour rookie from Venezuela who won the Bob Hope Classic this year, only missed one green in regulation. That came on the par-3 eighth, which played at 244 yards with a back pin and was playing more than a half-shot over par. From the 78 players in the morning, only five players made birdie. Vegas came up short, chipped to 8 feet and made the par putt.

"It's a course that you have to have absolutely everything in place to play great, and that's kind of what I did from tee-to-green today," Vegas said. "It can definitely get away if you don't pay attention."

Gary Woodland was in the group at 69, while UCLA sophomore-to-be Patrick Cantlay managed a 70 as he continues his amazing summer. Cantlay was low amateur at the U.S. Open, then shot 60 in the second round at Hartford to be the 36-hole leader.

Sean O'Hair, who lives in the Philadelphia area and is a member at Aronimink, struggled to a 76.

"It's ball-striking," O'Hair said. "That's all there is to it. You can't play this golf course and not hit fairways. And off the tee, on a scale from 1 to 10, I was a 2."

NBA lockout begins as sides fail to reach deal

NEW YORK (AP)—The NBA locked out its players Friday when its collective bargaining agreement expired, becoming the second pro sports league shut down by labor strife.

The labor deal ended at midnight after players and owners failed to reach a new contract. The two sides remained far apart on just about every major issue, from salaries to the salary cap, revenues to revenue sharing.

The long-expected lockout puts the 2011-12 season in jeopardy and comes as the NFL is trying to end its own work stoppage that began in March.

It is believed to be only the second time that two leagues have been shut down simultaneously by labor problems.

In 1994, the NHL and MLB were idle from October through the end of the year. The NHL locked out its players from October 1994 until mid-January 1995 and reduced the 1994-95 season from 84 games to 48. MLB endured a 232-day strike from August 12, 1994 until April 2, 1995, which led to the cancellation of the entire 1994 postseason and World Series.

In a call with the labor relations committee on Thursday, Commissioner David Stern recommended that the first lockout since the 1998-99 season be imposed.

"We had a great year in terms of the appreciation of our fans for our game. It just wasn't a profitable one for the owners, and it wasn't one that many of the smaller market teams particularly enjoyed or felt included in," Stern said. "The goal here has been to make the league profitable and to have a league where all 30 teams can compete."

Despite a three-hour meeting Thursday and a final proposal from the players—which NBA leaders said would have raised average player salaries to $7 million in the sixth year of the deal—the sides could not close the enormous gulf between their positions.

"The problem is that there's such a gap in terms of the numbers, where they are and where we are, and we just can't find any way to bridge that gap," union chief Billy Hunter said.

All league business is officially on hold, starting with the free agency period that would have opened Friday. The NBA's summer league in Las Vegas already has been canceled, preseason games in Europe were never scheduled, and players might have to decide if they want to risk playing in this summer's Olympic qualifying tournaments without the NBA's help in securing insurance in case of injury.

AP

NBA commissioner David Stern speaks to reporters after a meeting with the players' union, Thursday, June 30, 2011 in New York.

And teams will be prohibited from having any contact with their players, most of whom won't be paid until a deal is done but insist they'll hang in anyway.

"We're going to stand up for what we have to do, no matter how long it's going to take," Thunder star Kevin Durant told The Associated Press. "No matter how long the lockout's going to take, we're going to stand up. We're not going to give in."

The lockout comes exactly one year after one of the NBA's most anticipated days in recent years, when Lebron James, Dwyane Wade and the rest of the celebrated class of 2010 became free agents.

That free agency bonanza—highlight by the James, Wade, Chris Bosh trio in Miami - got the league started on a season where ticket and merchandise sales, ratings and buzz were all up. That weakened the owners' case that the system was broken beyond repair, but it also demonstrated why they wanted changes, with Stern saying owners feel pressured to spend as much as possible to prove their commitment to winning to fans.

The last lockout reduced the 1998-99 season to just a 50-game schedule, the only time the NBA missed games for a work stoppage. Hunter said it's too early to be concerned about that.

"I hope it doesn't come down to that," he said. "Obviously, the clock is now running with regard to whether or not there will or will be a loss of games, and so I'm hoping that over the next month or so that there will be sort of a softening on their side and maybe we have to soften our position as well."

The NBA appeared headed this route from the start of negotiations. Owners said they lost hundreds of millions in every season of this CBA, ratified in 2005. League officials said 22 of the 30 teams would lose money.

So they took a hard-line stance from the start, with their initial proposal in 2010 calling for a hard salary cap system, reducing contract lengths and eliminating contract guarantees, as well as reducing player salary costs by about $750 million annually. Though the proposal was withdrawn after a contentious meeting with players at the 2010 All-Star weekend, the league never moved from its wish list until recently, and Hunter said he believes negotiations never recovered from that rocky beginning.

The union had previously filed an unfair labor charge against the league with the National Labor Relations Board for unfair bargaining practices, complaining the NBA's goal was to avoid meaningful negotiation until a lockout was in place.

Despite frequent meetings this month, the sides just didn't make much progress.

Owners want to reduce the players' guarantee of 57 percent of basketball revenue and weren't moved by the players' offer to drop it to 54.3 percent—though players said that would have cut their salaries by $500 million over five years.

They sparred over the league's characterization of its "flex" salary cap proposal—players considered it a hard cap, which they oppose—and any chance of a last-minute deal was quickly lost Thursday when league officials said the union's move was in the wrong direction financially.

"I don't think we're closer; in fact it worries me that we're not closer. We have a huge philosophical divide," Stern said.

Hunter said he hopes the two sides will meet again in the next two weeks, after the union has looked at some additional documents it requested.

The players' association seems unlikely, at least for now, to follow the NFLPA's model by decertifying and taking the battle into the court system, instead choosing to continue negotiations. Hunter said last week he felt owners believe the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in St. Louis, which is debating the legality of the NFL's lockout, will uphold employers' rights to impose lockouts.

"We'll just continue to ask our fans to stick with us and remain patient with us. As players we want to play. That's who we are; we're basketball players," Lakers guard and union president Derek Fisher said. "Right now we're faced with dealing with the business aspect of our game. We're going to do it the same way we play basketball. We're going to work hard. We're going to be focused. We're going to be dedicated to getting the results that we want."

About 90 percent of NBA players get paid from Nov. 15 through April 30, so they won't be missing checks for a while. But Stern has warned that the offers only get worse once a lockout starts, so the league could try to push through elements of its original proposal when bargaining resumes.

"The fortunate thing about this situation is it didn't just come up over the past couple of weeks," Hornets guard and players' executive committee member Chris Paul said at an event in Louisiana. "We've known this could be a possibility the past couple of years. I've been telling my teammates the past couple of years, and even the young guys that come in the league, to just be ready for it."

Like with the NFL lockout, NBA players won't be the only ones affected. Employees of teams and the league also face a very uncertain future. Stern admitted all options would be considered, including furloughs for his employees.

"The people who stand to have their livings impacted by a shutdown of our industry are going to have a negative view of both sides," Stern said. "I think our fans will tend to have a negative view of why can't you guys work this thing out."

Lester, Varitek lead Red Sox over Phillies

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Jon Lester tossed two-hit ball over seven shutout innings, Jason Varitek homered twice and the Boston Red Sox avoided a three-game sweep with a 5-2 win over the Philadelphia Phillies in interleague play on Thursday.

The Phillies got a scare when pitcher Cole Hamels was forced to leave soon after being struck on the glove hand by Adrian Gonzalez's line drive in the fourth. The Phillies said X-rays were negative and Hamels will make his next start.

The three-game series was hyped as a potential World Series preview. If it is, don't look for much offense in October: Philadelphia outscored the Red Sox 9-6.

Dustin Pedroia and Varitek hit back-to-back homers in the eighth to make it 5-0.

Ryan Howard hit his 17th homer in the ninth, a two-run shot off Bobby Jenks.

Yankees 5, Brewers 0

At New York, CC Sabathia tied his career high with 13 strikeouts and Mark Teixeira hit his 300th homer to help New York finish off June with a season-best five-game winning streak.

Sabathia (11-4) won for the eighth time in nine starts. In 7 2-3 innings, Sabathia gave up six hits and two walks. Every batter he fanned came on a swinging third strike. When Sabathia left after throwing 118 pitches, he got a roar from the fans.

Cubs 5, Giants 2, 13 innings

At Chicago, pinch-hitter Geovany Soto's three-run homer capped a four-run 13th inning and sent the Chicago Cubs to a wild victory over San Francisco.

Soto's drive finished off an eventful day for the Cubs. Starter Carlos Zambrano left in the second inning because of soreness in his lower back, then Aramis Ramirez hit a tying home run in the ninth off San Francisco closer Brian Wilson.

Tigers 5, Mets 2

At Detroit, Justin Verlander slowed down the rampaging Mets, pitching seven solid innings to lead Detroit to victory.

The Mets had scored a team-record 52 runs in their previous four games, including 30 in the first two of this series. Verlander (11-3) prevented a sweep, holding New York to one run and seven hits.

Marlins 5, Athletics 4

At Oakland, California, Chris Volstad allowed one unearned run in seven innings and John Buck hit a two-run double to help Florida cap a miserable June by beating Oakland for its first consecutive wins in more than a month.

Strong starts by Ricky Nolasco and Volstad (4-7) gave the Marlins their first consecutive victories and first series win since sweeping the Giants across the bay in San Francisco on May 24-26.

Cardinals 9, Orioles 6

At Baltimore, Lance Berkman homered twice and Jon Jay hit a three-run shot as St. Louis completed a three-game sweep of Baltimore.

Berkman hit a two-run drive in the second inning and led off the seventh with a homer for his 29th career multi-homer game and fourth this season.

Pirates 6, Blue Jays 2

At Toronto, Jeff Karstens capped a brilliant June with another strong start and Brandon Wood hit a two-run homer as Pittsburgh won its first interleague road series since 2003.

The Pirates, who have won six of eight, had lost 17 straight interleague series away from home since taking two of three at Tampa Bay in June 2003.

Karstens (6-4) allowed two runs and five hits in seven innings.

White Sox 6, Rockies 4, 10 innings

At Denver, light-hitting Juan Pierre laced a tiebreaking, two-run single off the wall in the 10th inning, helping the Chicago White Sox rally past the Colorado Rockies.

With the bases loaded, Pierre, who's known for his speed more than his power, turned on a pitch from Clayton Mortensen (2-4) that hit off the top of the wall in right.

Astros 7, Rangers 0

At Houston, Jason Michaels homered and drove in three runs, while Wandy Rodriguez and three relievers combined on a four-hitter as Houston snapped an eight-game home losing streak.

Carlos Lee homered for the second straight day in the fourth inning and Chris Johnson drove in two runs in Houston's four-run fifth as the Astros won at Minute Maid Park for the first time since June 13.

Mayweather hopes for Pacquiao but set for Ortiz

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	48	31	.608	–
Boston	46	34	.575	2 1/2
Tampa Bay	45	36	.556	4
Toronto	40	42	.488	9 1/2
Baltimore	35	43	.449	12 1/2
Central Division				
Detroit	44	38	.537	–
Cleveland	42	37	.532	1/2
Chicago	40	42	.488	4
Minnesota	34	45	.430	8 1/2
Kansas City	33	48	.407	10 1/2
West Division				
Texas	43	39	.524	–
Los Angeles	42	40	.512	1
Seattle	39	42	.481	3 1/2
Oakland	36	46	.439	7

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division				
Philadelphia	51	30	.630	–
Atlanta	47	35	.573	4 1/2
New York	41	39	.513	9 1/2
Washington	40	41	.494	11
Florida	35	45	.438	15 1/2
Central Division				
Milwaukee	44	37	.543	–
St. Louis	43	38	.531	1
Cincinnati	42	40	.512	2 1/2
Pittsburgh	40	39	.506	3
Chicago	33	48	.407	11
Houston	28	53	.346	16
West Division				
San Francisco	46	35	.568	–
Arizona	44	38	.537	2 1/2
Colorado	39	41	.488	6 1/2
San Diego	37	45	.451	9 1/2
Los Angeles	36	46	.439	10 1/2

Thursday's Games

Boston 5, Philadelphia 2
N.Y. Yankees 5, Milwaukee 0
Detroit 5, N.Y. Mets 2
Chicago White Sox 6, Colorado 4, 10 innings
Florida 5, Oakland 4
St. Louis 9, Baltimore 6
Pittsburgh 6, Toronto 2
Houston 7, Texas 0

AT&T NATIONAL SCORES

NEWTOWN SQUARE, Pennsylvania (AP)– Scores Thursday at the AT&T National, a $6.2 million US PGA Tour event at 7,237-yard, par-70 (35-35) Aronimink Golf Club (a-amateur):

FIRST ROUND

Adam Scott	32-34	–66
Hunter Haas	35-31	–66
Dean Wilson	34-33	–67
Joe Ogilvie	33-34	–67
Jhonattan Vegas	34-33	–67
Kyle Stanley	36-31	–67
Pat Perez	35-33	–68
Justin Leonard	33-35	–68
Robert Garrigus	33-35	–68
Bill Haas	33-35	–68
John Merrick	34-34	–68
Rickie Fowler	34-34	–68
Charles Howell III	34-34	–68
Troy Matteson	34-34	–68
D.A. Points	33-35	–68
Vijay Singh	36-32	–68
Charlie Wi	35-34	–69
Kevin Na	34-35	–69
Gary Woodland	33-36	–69
Bo Van Pelt	35-34	–69
David Hearn	36-33	–69
Scott Stallings	34-35	–69
Chris Riley	35-34	–69
Trevor Immelman	35-34	–69
K.J. Choi	35-34	–69
Webb Simpson	35-34	–69
Brian Gay	34-35	–69
Bryce Molder	33-36	–69
D.J. Trahan	37-33	–70
Ricky Barnes	36-34	–70
Brendon de Jonge	35-35	–70
Chris Stroud	34-36	–70
Vaughn Taylor	35-35	–70
J.J. Henry	35-35	–70
Nick Watney	34-36	–70
Kevin Chappell	34-36	–70
a-Patrick Cantlay	35-35	–70
Kris Blanks	38-32	–70
Chris Kirk	36-34	–70
Steve Marino	35-35	–70
Justin Rose	35-35	–70
Tag Ridings	36-34	–70
Scott McCarron	36-34	–70
George McNeill	35-35	–70
Spencer Levin	36-34	–70
Michael Thompson	34-36	–70
Jeff Overton	36-35	–71
Kent Jones	35-36	–71
Brian Davis	35-36	–71
Charley Hoffman	36-35	–71
Geoff Ogilvy	34-37	–71
Harrison Frazar	36-35	–71
David Mathis	36-35	–71
Andres Romero	37-34	–71
Tim Herron	35-36	–71
Kevin Streelman	34-37	–71
Mike Weir	35-36	–71
Johnson Wagner	36-35	–71
Robert Allenby	33-38	–71
Chris DiMarco	35-36	–71
Billy Mayfair	33-38	–71
Joe Durant	36-36	–72
Tommy Gainey	35-37	–72
Jason Dufner	35-37	–72
Michael Putnam	35-37	–72
Stuart Appleby	36-36	–72
Stephen Ames	34-38	–72
Ryuji Imada	38-34	–72
Roland Thatcher	36-36	–72
Tom Gillis	34-38	–72
William McGirt	35-37	–72
Chez Reavie	35-37	–72
Nick O'Hern	37-35	–72
Hunter Mahan	37-35	–72
Ryan Moore	36-36	–72
Josh Teater	38-34	–72
Bobby Gates	38-35	–73
J.B. Holmes	39-34	–73
Shaun Micheel	39-34	–73
Chris Couch	40-33	–73
Kevin Stadler	38-35	–73
Carl Pettersson	37-36	–73
Anthony Kim	36-37	–73
Cameron Beckman	39-34	–73
a-Peter Uihlein	34-39	–73
Garrett Willis	37-36	–73
Tim Petrovic	36-37	–73
Steve Flesch	36-37	–73
Michael Bradley	38-35	–73
Michael Sim	36-37	–73
Zack Miller	37-36	–73
Blake Adams	38-36	–74
Mark Wilson	36-38	–74
Keegan Bradley	36-38	–74
Bill Lunde	37-37	–74
Matt Bettencourt	34-40	–74
Michael Connell	36-38	–74
Troy Merritt	37-37	–74
Notah Begay III	37-37	–74
Camilo Villegas	36-38	–74
Ben Curtis	37-37	–74
Rod Pampling	36-38	–74
Joseph Bramlett	38-36	–74
Boo Weekley	39-36	–75
Cameron Tringale	39-36	–75
Greg Chalmers	40-35	–75
Paul Goydos	39-36	–75
Billy Hurley III	38-37	–75
Sean O'Hair	34-42	–76
Jimmy Walker	40-36	–76
Erik Compton	39-37	–76
Arjun Atwal	41-36	–77
Matt Jones	42-35	–77
Alex Prugh	39-38	–77
Jim Furyk	37-40	–77
Steven Bowditch	39-38	–77
Billy Horschel	40-37	–77
Marc Leishman	40-40	–80
Lucas Glover	WD	
Graham DeLaet	WD	

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOXING

NEW YORK (AFP)— Unbeaten U.S. fighter Floyd Mayweather will end a 16-month layoff against southpaw Victor Ortiz in September but still hopes to give fans a long-sought showdown with Filipino icon Manny Pacquiao.

Mayweather, 41-0 with 25 knockouts, will face World Boxing Council welterweight champion Victor Ortiz, 29-2-2 with 22 knockouts, on September 17 at Las Vegas with an eye toward another southpaw, Pacquiao, after that.

"After this fight, if I'm able to negotiate a Pacquiao fight, it could happen," Mayweather said. "(Ortiz) is a southpaw. That could lead to the Pacquiao fight. If it does or it doesn't, I'm not going to stop fighting."

Most of the fights on Mayweather's agenda are legal ones. He faces three court cases, including charges from an incident with an ex-girlfriend that could bring up to 34 years in prison, plus a defamation lawsuit from Pacquiao.

Asked how that federal lawsuit could affect negotiations for a Pacquiao fight, Mayweather said, "I'm not sure at all."

"You go through ups and downs in life. If that's how he feels, things happen. If he wants to go to court for defamation of character, that's up to him."

Pacquiao argues that his reputation was damaged when Mayweather accused him of being a dope cheat in his push to have "Pac-Man" take blood tests close to the date of a fight, something the Filipino star has steadfastly refused but something that is also not required by any US boxing oversight group.

"Hopefully Manny Pacquiao steps up to the plate and takes the test so we can fight," Mayweather said. "I'm waiting for the fight to happen. I'm taking one step at a time."

Mayweather

Ortiz and Mayweather will undergo extra blood and urine tests beyond usual levels before their fight. Mayweather had similar rules in place before his most recent fight, a victory over Shane Mosley in May of last year.

"I've been missing the sport," Mayweather said. "I'm happy to be back performing for the fans."

Mayweather said he is trying to shrug off the court cases to focus on fighting Ortiz and that because he is a fighter, he might be seen as guilty in incidents involving physical contact before all the facts are given to a jury.

"They are already saying I'm guilty with no photos or pictures of anything," Mayweather said. "I need to see some pictures and see some proof of what I have done. All of this is just hearsay.

"All I need to do is go out there and stay focused and focus on what is in that squared circle."

Mayweather, who said he has played basketball but not worked out in the ring recently, put himself in the champion's shoes with his unbeaten record although it will be only Ortiz who owns a title when they climb into the ring.

"He's trying to dethrone me," Mayweather said. "My job is to go out there and fight like I always do."

SWIMMERS

From Page 28

ing a tournament in Guam.

The competition in China will be Wong's third world championships, while Kimball and Chentsova are first-timers.

Kimball will be swimming in the 50m and 100m freestyle races. The 15-year-old swimmer's best time in the 50m freestyle is 30.64 seconds. Nina Mosley holds both the CNMI 15 to 16 age group marks in the 50m freestyle 28.08 seconds (June 28, 2006). In the 100m freestyle, Kimball's personal best stands at 1:08.09.

Chentsova will be participating in longer races—the 200m and 400m freestyle.

The 13-year-old swimmer's PBT in the 400m freestyle reads 5:16.62 recorded during the Guam tournament last month. Chentsova chopped off about 24 seconds from her previous PBT (5:39.46). In the 200m, Chentsova's new PBT is 2:29.86, which she also made during the Guam meet and is more than two seconds faster than her previous mark (2:31.96)

Only Kimball and Chentsova are training together since Wong is still in Hawaii, but all three are expected to be in top shape when they reach Shanghai, which will host the championship from July 16 to 31.

"Each athlete has been working hard to prepare for this meet. The World Championships will give them the opportunity to watch, listen, and learn from swimmers of a caliber far exceeding their own. It is a huge honor for our swimmers to be able to attend and compete at this level. This gives them a glimpse of the pinnacle of the sport which they can then share with their teammates when they return home," SSC's Lisa Kimball said.

CNMI

From Page 28

Football Association general secretary Ed Salas, who with three other NMIFA officials will accompany the 18-player CNMI U15 Team in Japan and Taiwan.

In Yokohama City, the Commonwealth strikers will challenge Yokohama FC U15 squad, while in Chiba City, the visitors will be pitted against Jef United Chiba. The CNMI bets' third match in Japan will be against players from Tamadai-Meguro Junior High School in Meguro, Tokyo.

Besides playing three games, the CNMI youth strikers will also see professional matches in Japan.

"The boys will also get a chance to see two J-League professional soccer matches. This will be an awesome experience for them. Almost all of the boys have never seen a live professional soccer match. They will be in awe with the ambience at the stadium and the huge fans and not to mention the high caliber of matches. It's lifetime soccer experience," Salas said.

"We will depart Japan for Taipei in the afternoon of the July 18. Upon arrival, we will immediately head to the training field for a workout," the NMIFA official said.

On Taipei, the CNMI U15 Team composed of Jordan Butcher, Enrico del Rosario, Ethan Dickinson, Kenneth Domingo, Gregzon Fontanilla, Joel and Mason Fruit, Dakota Hall, William Hinson II, Kennedy Izuka, Hunter Jewell, Andrew Johnson, Angelo Jones, Jehn Joyner, Jake Lee, Sean Perez, John Taisacan, and Jirech Yobech will play against the host, Korea, Hong Kong, Guam, and Macau.

ASPAC

From Page 28

The CNMI still advanced to the finals rematch. But it was the Philippines that saved its best for last, securing its Little League World Series berth in dominating fashion.

Team CNMI is expected to return home tomorrow.

In related news, the CNMI Major League All-Stars are leaving for Guam next Friday to compete in its own ASPAC tournament against teams from Guam, the Philippines, Hong Kong, Chinese-Taipei, New Zealand, Korea Indonesia, The Republic of China, Singapore, and Thailand.

The 11-12 year old major division is considered the grand tournament of all the Little League tournaments. The winner will move on to compete in the Little League World Series in Williamsport, Virginia. Out of the eight LLWS events held annually, it is by far the most watched and will be televised in 120 countries to millions of viewers worldwide.

ATHLETES

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Games. Papua New Guinea has the second most entries with 432, followed by Fiji (426), Tahiti (410), Samoa (319), Guam (312), Vanuatu (234), Solomon Islands (248), Cook Islands (212), Wallis & Futuna (185), Tonga (139), American Samoa (162), Niue (77), Kiribati (75), Nauru (69), Palau (66), the Federated States of Micronesia (24), Tokelau (22), and the Marshall Islands (8).

Countries with more than 200 entries will be competing in almost of the events in New Caledonia. Sports lined up in next month's Pacific Games are athletics, basketball, beach and indoor volleyball, soccer, golf, weightlifting, swimming, Rugby 7's, tennis, table tennis, vaa (canoe racing), badminton, baseball, boxing, cricket, karate, squash, surfing, taekwondo, shooting, archery, triathlon, sailing, body building, power lifting, and judo.

NBA lockout begins as sides fail to reach deal

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Sharapova reaches first final since '04

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3 CNMI swimmers off to World Championships

Wong

Kimball

Chentsova

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI will be sending three swimmers to the 14th FINA World Championships in Shanghai, China this month.

Making it on the list first was Rezne Wong, who was selected by Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan early last month. Joining him are Saipan Swim Club's Grace Kimball and Victoria Chentsova. The two female swimmers were selected after competing in a tournament in Guam later last month.

Each Commonwealth swimmer is entered in two events. Wong will be participating in his favorite events—the 200m breaststroke and the 200m individual medley. The University of Hawaii-Manoa swim team member holds both the CNMI and age group records (17 to 18) in the 200m breaststroke and 200m IM. He posted the CNMI and age group marks in the 200m breaststroke (2:26.83) on July 30, 2009 during the World Championships in Rome, Italy. In the 200m IM, Wong's record is 2:14.48 logged on May 30, 2009 dur-

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ASPAC BIG LEAGUE FINALS

CNMI falls to Philippines, 1-7

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The CNMI Big League All-Stars lost the championship of the 2011 Asia-Pacific Big League Regional Tournament to host team Philippines, 1-7, yesterday at the Rizal Memorial Baseball Stadium in Manila.

The Commonwealth fell behind early as the Philippines mustered three runs in the opening frame.

The score remained 3-0 for the next three innings until both teams managed a run apiece in the fifth.

The Philippines began to taste the win with nine outs left in the game and pulled ahead, 5-1, in the top half of the sixth. The Philippines then added two more runs in the last inning, all the while keeping a lid on the CNMI's offense.

WWW.LITTLELEAGUE.ORG.PH

Eric Tenorio, seen here in action against Guam earlier in the week, and the rest of the CNMI Big League All-Stars succumbed to host Philippines in the finals yesterday at the Rizal Memorial Baseball Stadium in Manila, Philippines.

The host team may have had home field advantage, but the CNMI was gifted a free rest day after Guam conceded victory in Thursday's final leg of the pair's double-round robin. Guam suffered three straight losses coming into the game and was already out of the running for a finals appearance. An early rain delay led to Guam tipping its cap to the CNMI squad.

Moreover, the CNMI was also declared the home team in the finals as a result of the tie-breaker rules; both finalists held identical 3-1 win-loss records.

The bats did not show up late in the tournament as the CNMI tallied six runs apiece in its double header on the second day of the competition, only to be stuffed to a 2-3 loss to the Philippines after a rest day.

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4,300 athletes listed for Pacific Games

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

More than 4,000 athletes are listed for the 2011 Pacific Games in New Caledonia as registration of entries by names closed last month.

"On 28 June, at the official close of athlete entries for the 2011 Pacific Games, some 4,300 athletes had been registered by the 22 Pacific Games Associations," according to the Pacific Games Council website.

The list is not final, as participating countries can still make changes once they arrive in New Caledonia or during the technical meeting before the competition starts. The number is likely to go down to 3,000 once the Pacific Games begins on Aug. 27.

Of the 4,300 athletes, host New Caledonia as expected has the most entries with 747. The French territory will compete in all 28 sports lined up in the 15-day quadrennial event.

The CNMI listed 68 athletes, including golfers Jess Wabol, Tony Satur, Jeff Taylor, and Adam Hardwicke and trackster Rachel Abrams, Trevor Ogumoro, and Douglas Dillay. Ten CNMI players are registered for beach volleyball, but only four will be in the final roster. Baseball listed 31 players, but the CNMI sluggers are not sure yet if they will be able to go New Caledonia.

"If our baseball team is not able to go, we are hopeful that the penalties will be waived because of circumstances," Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association president Michael White said.

Besides the CNMI and New Caledonia, 20 other countries are participating in the Pacific

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Members of the CNMI U15 Team sprints at the Oleai Sports Complex Field during a training session last Wednesday. ROSELYN B. MONROYO

CNMI U15 strikers to play in Japan

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

To warm up for this month's East Asian Football Federation U15 Youth Tournament, CNMI strikers will play a couple of matches in Japan first.

The EAFF competition will run from July 18 to 24 at the Taipei Municipal Stadium in Taipei, Taiwan, but the CNMI U15 Team will leave Saipan early for a stopover in Japan.

"The team will leave Saipan on July 16 and will be in Japan for a mini-camp for two days. They will have three matches against U15 boys teams from two different football clubs," said Northern Mariana Islands

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